

Honorable Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environment
Honorable Members of the Committee
900 Court Street NE, Room 347,
Salem, Oregon 97301
Phone: 503-986-1751

April 21, 2015

Dear Chair Vega Pederson and Energy and Environment Committee members,

We are writing to express our strong support for HB3470, the Climate Stability and Social Justice Bill.

Today, we re-listened to the powerful testimony given by Secretary Rodriguez, Sean Penrith, Jeff Renfro and Russ Beaton at the hearing last Tuesday, April 14th. The knowledge presented to the committee was compelling in that much research has been conducted to help Oregon figure out the right path to placing a price on carbon and begin the urgently needed ratcheting down of greenhouse gas emissions.

There are three points, in particular, we would like to bring to your attention.

#1. In The Climate Trust's Publication titled: : [*An Evaluation of Potential Carbon Pricing Mechanisms for the State of Oregon Policy Paper for the 2014 Oregon Legislature*](#), page 2 has the following chart which depicts the potential harm to various economic sectors in Oregon if no action is taken to price carbon and stem the flow of greenhouse gas pollution. We can attest here in Southern Oregon, we are already experiencing "warmer, drier summers" and "reduced winter snow pack in the Cascades."

Threat:	Leading to:	Valuation of industries affected:
Warmer, drier summers	Drought Heat waves Wildfires Disease and pest increases	Forestry: \$12.7B ⁴ Wine: \$2.7B ⁵
Sea level rise along coast	Erosion Flooding	Coastal Real Estate: No information available
Reduced winter snowpack in the Cascades	Increased water prices Increased irrigation needs Decreased tourism	Agriculture: \$23B ⁶ Tourism: \$9.2B ⁷
Increased ocean acidity	Algae blooms Biodiversity changes	Salmon fisheries: \$6.7M ⁸

These impacts will be significant and costly. The report goes on to say that "...continued worldwide inaction, could cost anywhere from 5-20% of global GDP each year to perpetuity, while action would cost only 1%." HB3470, creates a solid plan that contributes to a solution taking us from inaction to action.

#2. California's program thus far has proven to be successful not just in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but also in stimulating job growth. Despite fears by some that a price on carbon would stifle the economy, this has not been born out. Mr. Penrith's testimony last Tuesday stated: "*California*

added more jobs than any other state during the economic recovery and it has attracted \$21 billion dollars in venture capital investment, more than all the other states in this country combined, while its core clean economy grew 10 times faster than any other sector in the state. Revenues from auction have raised \$1.6 billion dollars, a significantly higher number than was expected at this point in the program.”

This testimony, and the willingness of California’s EPA Secretary Rodriguez to share data with Oregon, gives us much encouragement that HB3470, and our working in conjunction with California, could be just the shot in the arm Oregon is looking for. It would move us away from harmful effects of Greenhouse gas pollution and toward a renewable clean energy economy that Oregonians across the state could rally behind and benefit from.

#3. By providing an overarching framework that has predetermined and scientifically-based emission reduction goals, along with the built in flexibility that allows Oregon to tailor our revenue expenditures to meet the unique needs of our state, HB3470 takes the best of the California experience and allows Oregon to hit the ground running.

For those of you on this committee, the time for action is now. The planet is reeling and we will continue to feel those effects both here in Southern Oregon and across the state. As we move forward, we encourage you to see the hope that will be generated by allowing Oregonians to be pro-active and throw our backs into doing something that will help mitigate the increasing uncertainty our children and future generations are facing.

Tonight I watched the PBS film made on Our Children’s Trust and the incredible work that Mary Wood and Julia Olsen have done--all based right here in Oregon!--to simply ask, don’t we have an obligation to our kids and future generations to protect the basic life support systems of the planet?

Oregon has a rich history of people willing to step up for change, from Tom McCall to Mary Wood. We ask that you heed the growing signs and act with courage to bring Oregon into the forefront and be the change the world needs.

We urge you to act on April 21st , with a unified voice, and allow HB3470 to pass on to the appropriate channel and share with your colleagues the importance of passing this bill during **this legislative session**.

Sincerely,

Deb Evans and Ron Schaaf
Hair on Fire Oregon
Ashland