

# DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

## Platform Committee

1/15/2015

### **RESOLUTION 2015.04**

#### A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

*Relating to Carbon Pricing By The State Of Oregon*

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County is compelled by the scientific consensus that carbon dioxide emissions are the primary cause of global climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County finds that climate change is a threat to public health, national security, food security, and business supply chains. These costs to our society are not reflected in the price of fossil fuels and therefore the Democratic Party of Lane County regards them as hidden costs—or *market externalities*—of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County believes that a simple price signal to consumers is the most efficient way to discourage consumption of fossil fuels and encourage innovation of alternatives; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County finds that the preponderance of research—including the 2013 Tax and Shift report published by the Portland State University Northwest Economic Research Center and the 2014 Carbon Tax Study published by Regional Economic Models, Inc.—indicates a revenue neutral carbon fee would stimulate economic growth and rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County believes that an upstream fee on fossil fuels would make low-carbon sectors of Oregon's economy more competitive, and that renewable energy development is a growth opportunity for our state; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County appreciates that a carbon tax by itself would be regressive and supports a provision to alleviate the burden on low-income households; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County finds that global climate change is uniquely urgent and therefore supports a policy free from traditional wedge issues such as revenue, spending and the size of government.

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County Resolves:

SECTION 1. To call on the Oregon state legislature to levy a fee on fossil fuels at the most upstream possible point of sale in the State of Oregon; with scheduled increases to establish predictability in Oregon's energy market; at levels that adequately address the climate crisis, according to the most credible climatological and economic research; and with revenues returned to Oregonians in a manner that mitigates the regressive nature and disruption of vital industries that might otherwise ensue.

SECTION 2. If a carbon fee is not possible, the Democratic Party of Lane County urges the Oregon state legislature to enact legislation that has an effect that most closely resembles the effect of Section 1 of this resolution as is legally possible.

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,  
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, January 15, 2015.**

Signed:

X \_\_\_\_\_.

Chris Wig  
Chair

X \_\_\_\_\_.

Celine Swenson-Harris  
Secretary