

I submit the following testimony for the June 24 Hearing on HB 3470

Testimony On June 10, 2015, Meeting of Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Please support passage of HB 3470A, the Climate Stability and Justice Act and SB 965, Cap and Dividend. They represent the legislation needed this year as momentum increases to act on curbing greenhouse gas emissions. HB 3470A enforces Oregon's existing goals on climate pollution adopted by the 2007 Legislative Assembly, with a firm timeline for action to guarantee Oregon achieves these 2007 goals. The Act ensures that progress is measured and reported every five years and that further reductions are taken if benchmarks are not met. SB 965 would authorize DEQ to set up a permit and auction system for those polluting the air with carbon dioxide or its equivalent

Eight years have passed since Oregon engaged in establishing the Western Climate Initiative along with 7 western states and 4 Canadian provinces. Extensive efforts have been underway for several years to craft responsible legislation. California and Quebec adopted a cap program in January, 2013, resulting in a dependable revenue stream and healthy economic returns. British Columbia adopted a taxing program in 2008 resulting in solid revenue and the best economic growth in Canada.

It's past time for Oregon to get on board with other jurisdictions in the Western Climate Initiative and in the world. Passage of these bills would give Oregon a unique, revenue-neutral approach for polluting air owned by all citizens. Since 1982, the Alaskan permanent fund has paid \$19 Billion to Alaska's citizens for corporate takings of oil that is owned by all citizens of that state. Years from now, when we hopefully escape the worst consequences of climate change, we can say that Oregon led the way in 2015 with it's unique but well vetted answer to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Don Merrick, Member of Community For Earth
13376 SW Chelsea Loop
Tigard, OR 97223