

Good morning,

I am chair of the Green Team at St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, a congregation of 600 people in Northeast Portland, and Convener of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon's Environmental Commission, a group representing the environmental concerns of Episcopalians throughout the Diocese of Oregon.

I am also a 2015 GreenFaith Fellow and an attorney in private practice emphasizing environmental and real estate law.

I am writing to support the passage of HB 3470 for myself and on behalf of St. Michael's and the Diocesan Environmental Commission.

Climate change is an urgent moral problem requiring appropriately urgent and comprehensive solutions. Episcopalians have long recognized that we have a moral calling to work for a just transition from an unsustainable economy based on unlimited fossil fuel consumption to a sustainable economy based on renewable sources of energy.

One necessary policy solution is to price greenhouse gas emissions at rates that will achieve emissions reductions consistent with the recommendations of climate scientists--from 5% to 6% per year or more--until emissions essentially reach zero. Pricing greenhouse gas emissions correctly will end the free ride that polluters have had throughout the fossil fuel era, making space for renewable sources of energy to compete with fossil fuels fairly. HB 3470 will accomplish these objectives.

During the renewable energy transition, we must protect those least able to afford any increases in fossil fuel costs that may occur once greenhouse gas emissions are priced correctly. HB 3470 will accomplish this objective through its dividend mechanism, which insures a just sharing of any increased costs.

Finally, pricing greenhouse gas emissions has many indirect benefits for Oregonians beyond mitigating climate change. In addition to improved health for all of our citizens, pricing greenhouse gas emissions will stimulate our economy. As a leader in wind, tidal, geothermal, and solar energy technologies and deployment, with basically no direct economic stake in the fossil fuel extraction industry, Oregon is well-situated to lead the necessary transition to a new economy based on renewable sources of energy. Thus, pricing greenhouse gas emissions through HB 3470 is sound economic development policy as well as sound environmental policy.

For all of the foregoing reasons, St. Michael's and the Diocesan Environmental Commission strongly support HB 3470 and urge its immediate passage.

Thank you for your consideration,

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