



February 2, 2016

Senator Chris Edwards, Chair
Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resource Committee
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 1574

Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee,

I write on behalf of Climate Solutions to express strong support for Senate Bill 1574, the Healthy Climate Bill. Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming. For more than 15 years, Climate Solutions has been working to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon reduction policies that demonstrate that clean energy and broadly shared economic prosperity go hand-in-hand.

For the record, I note that I am a professional economist, with more than a decade of expertise, research, and publications on the subject of climate and energy policy. As an economist, I can attest that Senate Bill 1574 is modeled after working programs in other jurisdictions in North America that have successfully reduced emissions, while continuing to grow jobs and the economy.

Senate Bill 1574 is a necessary component of Oregon's transition to a clean energy economy. Oregon has legislated targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but we are not on track to meeting our goals. In order to level the playing field for clean energy policies and programs we already have in place in Oregon, and create the certainty around the pace and timing of emissions reductions that businesses need to invest in clean energy solutions, Oregon needs the economy-wide limits on carbon pollution and market based mechanisms for compliance that Senate Bill 1574 creates.

Senate Bill 1574 applies the best available science and economics in policy design to ensure that Oregon achieves reductions consistent with its carbon pollution goals (ORS 468A.205) and benefits from a just transition to a low-carbon economy. Through its market mechanisms, it encourages Oregon to pursue the most cost-effective pollution reduction strategies and generates revenues to invest in the communities and sectors most impacted by climate change. Senate Bill 1574 can create good-paying, clean economy jobs and economic opportunities across Oregon.

Climate change is already hurting Oregon, including last year's record-setting low snowpack, drought, and forest fires; struggling tourism, snow sports, and shellfish industries. The impacts of climate change are fundamentally unequal; rural and urban low-income communities and communities of color are more acutely experiencing the effects of pollution and global warming. This is why any policy we enact to achieve carbon reductions must protect and invest in the people and communities in Oregon who are most vulnerable.

Senate Bill 1574 can set Oregon down a proven course to carbon pollution reduction, invest in Oregon's clean economy future, and affirm Oregon's leadership on climate change. Climate Solutions strongly supports Senate Bill 1574.

Sincerely,



Kristen Sheeran, Ph.D.
Oregon Director, Climate Solutions