



February 1, 2016

Testimony in support of the Healthy Climate Act (SB 1574)

The Geos Institute is based in Ashland, Oregon and has been working to create climate change solutions that matter since 2006. By climate change solutions that matter, we mean solutions that work for people and nature, help with both adaptation to climate impacts and mitigation (reducing emissions), and work for future generations rather than simply transferring the risk to our children.

One of our programs, ClimateWise®, works with communities to help them understand likely future conditions and determine how best to plan for the future. Part of our work is bringing to them projections of climate change for their local areas. These projections are sobering. We find that by the end of our community process, citizens and local leaders are pressing us to find out if we are locked in to this future or whether there is still time to lessen the eventual extent of climate change.

The best scientists in the world are telling us that there is still time to alter this path, but that our window of opportunity is getting smaller each year that goes by without serious action to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving the climate change crisis.

The Oregon Legislature has the opportunity to lead our state in creating a mechanism for Oregon to meet our preset targets for 2025, 2035, and 2050. Cap and trade is an effective strategy for making measurable, significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. We urge the Oregon Legislature to move this bill forward to a floor vote during the 2016 session so that Oregon can take the action needed to secure the climate future of its children and grandchildren.

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