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Senator Chris Edwards
Oregon District 7
900 Court Street NE, S-411
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Dear Senator Edwards,

On the evening of Friday, November 13, terrorists with links to the so-called Islamic State in Syria (let's use the name they hate: Daesh) murdered 130 people and wounded 368 more in Paris. Most of the victims had been enjoying an evening of socializing and a concert near Place de la Republique.

Thirty days later, on Saturday, December 12, at Le Bourget, less than nine miles from the massacre, representatives of 196 nations signed an agreement aimed at slowing and eventually reversing global warming.

What is the connection? The attack on civility in Paris was spun off from the turmoil in Syria, which followed five years of drought and the migration of nearly a million farmers into overcrowded cities. Like drought and wildfires in Oregon, the terror of November 13 is among the consequences of a climate that is careening off course. (For a serious graphic account of Syria's environmental and political collapse, Google "Syria climate change comic.")

On Tuesday, February 1, the Senate Energy & Environment Committee that you chair will meet in Salem to consider Senate Bill 1574, Oregon's Healthy Climate Act. Just 53 days after the signing of the Paris Accord, you will have an opportunity to join the international process outlined in that agreement. Among the bills that will be introduced in the upcoming "short session" is Oregon's Healthy Climate Act, a measure that will cap the greenhouse gas emissions that are driving global warming and climate change. (Of course we need to control greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, but let's start here.)

This measure will start the process of converting Oregon's energy economy to renewable resources. Truthfully, this will be an enormous task. Why should you consider it. Here's one reason: the survival of human civilization is at stake.

Unfortunately, this is not hyperbole. We are already seeing early signs of environmental collapse, including ocean acidification, melting ice caps and extinction of sensitive species. Connect these dots to political meltdowns and spasms of violent extremism from the southern margins of the Sahara through the Middle East. Witness thousands of desperate refugees fleeing these regions, heading for Europe and beyond. In the background, the global warming curve is getting steeper.

Please move SB 1574 towards consideration by the Senate. It's urgent.

Best regards,

Diarmuid McGuire