



Support House Bill 4036

February 1, 2016

Speaker Tina Kotek
Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson
Chair Jessica Vega Pederson,

Last month in Paris, the global community reached a historic agreement to reduce the threat of climate change and accelerate the transition to cleaner, safer forms of energy such as wind and solar.

We already have the solutions we need to tackle the threat of climate disruption. Here in the United States, communities are carrying the spirit of the Paris agreement forward by expanding local clean energy, shifting away from dirty fossil fuels, and ensuring that Americans are protected from the threat of pollution. However, even more must be done. It's up to all of us to help build the momentum toward an economy that is powered by clean, renewable energy.

Oregon has that opportunity today.

The Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan, HB 4036, is another example of Oregon's continued leadership addressing climate disruption. If adopted, it would shift the state's largest two utilities away from climate-polluting coal and would double the Renewable Portfolio Standard so that 50 percent of Oregon's electricity needs would be met by clean energy.

If approved by the Legislature, the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan would nearly cut in half the greenhouse gases emitted by the state's two largest electric utilities by 2030, representing a huge step forward for Oregon in reducing dangerous climate-disrupting pollution. By doing so, Pacific Power and PGE, which together emit 90% of electric sector greenhouse gases, would be in compliance with their share of the State's 2050 greenhouse gas reduction goal.

This historic plan also demonstrates what's possible when we work collaboratively to tackle the threat of climate change and also the opportunity that the growing clean energy economy presents.

What's notable about the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Plan is that it brought together a coalition of unlikely allies to get it done, ranging from major electric utilities to consumer advocates to Oregon's leading environmental organizations. HB 4036 recognizes the urgency of the threat of climate change and shows what we can accomplish when we find common ground to do what's right.

The transition from dirty, outdated fuels like coal to clean, renewable energy sources is already underway. The Clean Electricity and Coal Transition plan builds on this progress and sets Oregon on a clear path to create good-paying jobs here and in the region, protect our air and climate from coal pollution, and keep our communities healthy. The plan also expands electric vehicle infrastructure and increases access to community solar for low income Oregonians. It offers the kind of climate leadership we need and the solutions that Oregonians deserve and have been demanding from Salem.

We are proud to stand with the broad coalition of environmental, clean energy, and consumer groups that support this historic plan, and **we urge state leaders to adopt HB 4036** this legislative session.

Sincerely,



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Gene Karpinski
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