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From: Gary Wallmark <garwal53@gmail.com>
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Now is the time to adopt the Healthy Climate Bill.

Now is the time for action on climate change. World leaders at the Paris Climate Conference unanimously agreed that global warming is real, serious, and human caused, and that we must immediately address it. Carbon placed in the atmosphere today takes a century to dissipate. Every year we wait is another year in which the greenhouse gas effects of carbon pollution build. We know the train is coming down the track and increasing in speed. It won't stop on a dime. We owe it to our grandkids and all future generations to start applying the breaks NOW.

The necessity for immediate action (as opposed to waiting for a later legislative session) is even clearer when you recognize that passage of the Healthy Climate Bill does not result in immediate implementation. It calls for the Department of Environmental Quality to adopt rules establishing Oregon's cap and trade plan. We will still be waiting years until the bill results in real change. This lead time is necessary for the effective implementation of the plan, but again emphasizes that we must take action this legislative session. Adoption today means that we won't start applying the brakes on the train for some time, but at least we've reached for the lever and got the process started. Doing nothing is just that -- doing nothing while we know the train is accelerating.

Passage of the Healthy Climate Bill is the right action to take. Other bills under consideration may provide some benefit, but simply don't go far enough. They deal with only one source of carbon pollution. The Healthy Climate Bill has a broader range and a deeper impact. Don't just tap the breaks -- apply some growing, steady pressure.

Now is the time to adopt the Healthy Climate Bill. Don't apply the breaks too light and too late -- our grandkids and all future generations should not be crushed in the train wreck we failed to stop.

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Sent from my iPad