

Raszka Shelley

From: Gary Wallmark <garwal53@gmail.com>
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To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: Healthy Climate Bill SB 1574

Every legislative session, long or short, involves balancing important priorities--education, environment, employment, health care, housing, and human services. It may be tempting to dismiss what may seem to be a long-range goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the face of so many competing claims. However, failure to create the structure to rein in our emissions now constricts our freedom to act on other needs in the future. We will simply not have the time or money to address them. How will we improve our educational system in future sessions when the money is spent fighting storms that close the schools? How will we maintain the health and integrity of forests, fish and wildlife when the money goes to fighting wildfires? How will we support a healthy economy when the money is spent on drought-stricken farmers who lose their livelihoods, and shellfish farmers who close down due to ocean acidification? How will the state help communities which depend on those industries when they shutter down? How will we support the growing numbers of people with health care needs as previously rare tropical disease vectors move north with the changing climate? How will we house and employ the growing influx of climate migrants from all over the world?

Wise leadership demands that you act NOW to create a better, stronger, more vibrant future for Oregon rather than one ham-strung by repeated climate-change-driven crises. Pass the Healthy Climate Bill.

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