

February 3, 2016

Subject: **Healthy Climate Bill – Senate Bill 1574**

Dear Committee,

Please pass the Healthy Climate Bill. One of the Corvallis City Council's six goals is to work on a Corvallis Climate Action Plan. As a result, a Climate Action Task Force is in the process of putting together a CAP. Yesterday, February 1st, they set a preliminary greenhouse gas reduction target that matches the State of Oregon's. It was noted that in order to meet their chosen goal, that they will need a state-wide carbon pricing mechanism. Therefore, it is imperative that you pass a carbon pricing bill to help cities throughout Oregon meet their greenhouse reduction goals.

Carbon pricing is an important vehicle that is needed to slow greenhouse gas emissions. The more we emit the more we trigger changes that are devastating and irreversible. Economists widely agree that reducing carbon emissions is most effectively accomplished by putting a price on them. The Healthy Climate bill will do just that—starting small and rising over time. As a result, Corvallis businesses and residents will be able to plan and make smart decisions to jump start the clean energy economy, which is needed to avoid climate calamity.

Oregon needs “enforceable” GHG reduction goals.

The Healthy Climate Bill will enable Oregon to enforce the climate pollution law passed nearly a decade ago. This 2007 law lacks enforceable, science-based reduction goals, which means Oregon will **not** meet its 2020 goal by a wide margin. Whereas the Healthy Climate Bill's enforceable limits will make it possible to meet our goals, as well as seize important opportunities to: transition off dirty fuels, build a thriving clean energy economy, generate broadly shared prosperity and create local, low-carbon jobs.

The Corvallis City Council passed Resolution 2015-15, in support of carbon pricing. They decided on February 1st, that they would attach a cover letter to the resolution. They will send it to Corvallis's state legislative representatives.

There are a couple concerns that are worth emphasizing and keeping an eye on: “broadly shared prosperity,” and “science-based” GHG reduction goals. The former concern is important because low income and communities of color are at greatest risk and disproportionately bear the costs of climate disruption. And goals based on the best available science are essential to helping us meet our targets. Therefore we suggest you emphasize support for an equitable, non-regressive, science-based carbon pricing bill in the Healthy Climate bill.

Why Oregon Needs a Price on Carbon

You might ask “why do we need a price on carbon?” If Oregon had not taken any of the steps it has already taken, emissions would have continued its steep climb (yellow line in attached graph). Oregon’s existing policies have brought its emissions down to a relatively flat trajectory (red line). However, for climate stability, and to meet Oregon’s existing goals (orange line) it needs the “enforceable” GHG reduction goals that the Healthy Climate bill contains.

If you envision each line as a train, the red train is the one we’re on now. You do not want to take the yellow train, because it will take you to a planet “straight out of science fiction.”¹ So, we are thankful for the Healthy Climate bill, because it will put us on the orange train sending us to a brighter future toward climate stability.

Respectfully,

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¹¹ Bill McKibben, “Global Warming’s Terrifying New Math.” <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warmings-terrifying-new-math-20120719> Carbon emissions are growing by roughly three percent a year. With this trajectory Fatih Birol, the International Energy Agency’s chief economist, explains “the trend is perfectly in line with a temperature increase of about six degrees.”

