

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

Platform Committee

1/21/2016

RESOLUTION 2016.1

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

Relating to Support of the Healthy Climate Bill

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County is compelled by the scientific consensus that carbon dioxide emissions are the primary cause of global climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County finds that climate change is a threat to public health, national security, food security, and business supply chains. These costs to our society are not reflected in the price of fossil fuels and therefore the Democratic Party of Lane County regards them as hidden costs—or market externalities—of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County believes that a simple price signal to consumers is the most efficient way to discourage consumption of fossil fuels and encourage innovation of alternatives; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County finds that the preponderance of research—including the 2013 Tax and Shift report published by the Portland State University Northwest Economic Research Center and the 2014 Carbon Tax Study published by Regional Economic Models, Inc.—indicates a revenue neutral carbon fee would stimulate economic growth and rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County believes that an upstream fee on fossil fuels would make low-carbon sectors of Oregon's economy more competitive, and that renewable energy development is a growth opportunity for our state; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County appreciates that a carbon tax by itself would be regressive and supports a provision to alleviate the burden on low-income households; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Lane County finds that global climate change is uniquely urgent and therefore supports a policy free from traditional wedge issues such as revenue, spending and the size of government; and

WHEREAS, Sen. Chris Edwards has introduced the Healthy Climate Bill in the Oregon Senate and Rep. Phil Barnhart has introduced the same bill in the Oregon House of Representatives.

THEREFORE, the Democratic Party of Lane County Resolves:

SECTION 1. To call on the Oregon state legislature to pass the Healthy Climate Bill during the 2016 Short Legislative Session.

**Resolved by the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Lane County,
Assembled in Eugene, Oregon, January 21, 2016**

Signed:

X _____ . X _____ .

Chris Wig

Celine Swenson-Harris

Chair

Secretary



DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

To: Oregon Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
From: Chris Wig, Chair, Democratic Party of Lane County
Re: Support for SB 1574/Healthy Climate Act

February 1, 2016

Dear Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the 87,517 Democrats in Lane County to urge you to vote Yes on Senate Bill 1574, the Healthy Climate Act, which would protect our environment by laying the groundwork for a carbon pricing system in Oregon.

Democrats in Lane County strongly believe it is in the public interest to encourage conservation and environmental stewardship by individuals, businesses and organizations.

There exists a clear and compelling scientific consensus that carbon dioxide emissions are the primary cause of global climate change, which is a threat to public health, national security, food security, business supply chains and ultimately life on Earth. These costs to our society are not reflected in the price of fossil fuels and therefore could be described as hidden costs – or market externalities – of fossil fuels. The members of our Party believe that a simple price signal to consumers is the most efficient way to discourage consumption of fossil fuels and encourage innovation of alternatives.

Furthermore, the preponderance of research – including the 2013 Tax and Shift report published by the Portland State University Northwest Economic Research Center and the 2014 Carbon Tax Study published by Regional Economic Models, Inc. – indicates a carbon fee would stimulate economic growth and rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Research suggests an upstream fee on fossil fuels would make low-carbon sectors of Oregon's economy more competitive, and that renewable energy development is a growth opportunity.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information. I look forward to working with you to create a safe, prosperous and enduring Oregon.

Your friend,

Chris Wig
Chair
Democratic Party of Lane County