

February 26, 2017

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of SB 557, the Clean Energy and Jobs Bill. We are at a critical juncture in our efforts to address and mitigate global climate change. The last three years have been the hottest on record. Those younger than 30 have never experienced a month in which the average surface temperature of the Earth was below average, and this would include my 15 year old daughter. I watch with alarm and heartache as Arctic sea melts and extreme weather events become more common. In order to preserve a livable planet Earth, a rapid transition away from fossil fuels to renewable energy is needed to drastically reduce emissions of green house gasses into the atmosphere. Placing prices and declining caps on green house gas emissions generated by polluting industries is a necessary and important step toward this goal. In addition, money raised from such a strategy will fund local green economy jobs, and aid in a just transition that focuses on economically distressed communities, both urban and rural. This approach will ensure that all Oregonians reap the benefits of clean energy projects.

Our present administration in Washington DC denies the reality of climate change. Therefore, it is imperative that we act at the local level to combat climate change. The time for bold action is now. I urge you to pass this bill for the sake of future generations and our beautiful Earth.

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