Testimony to support SB557 Clean Energy and Jobs Bill March 1, 2017 Donna Murphy

My name is Donna Murphy, I am a retired Portland Public School teacher.

This year I'm working on a climate change opera with East Multhomah County elementary school kids in their after school program. I started with basic climate change science and moved into complexities, preparing those children for the opera and for the future world in which they will live.

Once, after we discussed scientific principles of our warming earth, a child asked, "People made earth warmer. So, how do we make it colder?"

One simple answer to his sad question is provided by carbon trade programs: We stop making messes.

For the healthy future of our children and their children's children, the stew of greenhouse gas pollutants in our air must be addressed. And because our present national government denies the science, states must take the initiative to address greenhouse gas emissions. A proven effective way is through a carbon cap program, where those corporations that make the mess, slow it down considerably.

Over the past few years of similar bills presented in Oregon, many people have worked to refine this idea and this bill. The newest incarnation, the Clean Energy and Jobs Bill, continues to wisely use thoughtful program administration to address needs of low income and rural populations. Attention to those needs is maintained, as well as attention to science, and cutting down on offsets allowed from forestry and agriculture.

We must get serious about this, it is urgent and the time is now. Polls show a majority of support for a carbon trade bill. In a 2015 Stanford University poll, 2/3 of Americans support making corporations pay a price for carbon pollution. Just last month, Portland Business Journal asked readers, "Time for cap and trade?" and 85% replied yes.

We want businesses to stop dumping their wastes into our air. We do not want to pass a damaged earth to our children. Please, pass this bill SB 557 this year, and help us leave a healthier planet to our children.

Donna Murphy