

Testimony Submitted at March 1, 2017 Committee Hearing

Joan Kalvelage, PhD
810 Faith Avenue
Ashland, Oregon 97520

Dear Senator Dembrow and Committee Members:

First, thank you for your service in making Oregon's democracy work. Although I cannot match your many hours of service, **I too take seriously the responsibilities and opportunities of citizenship—as a donor, a volunteer, a community organizer and an Ashland voter.** I recognize the importance of the many bills and challenges coming before you, but I and all my friend and family are most motivated by the urgent need for climate care. **We see SB 557 as the most—indeed only—effective path to actually reaching greenhouse emission control standards that Oregon's legislature wisely set years before the Paris Climate Accord.**

My four sons belong to the first generation of middle-aged Americans whose rise in untimely deaths is now the fastest among the developed nations. I see among my sons' friends how that tragic statistic is influenced by lack of living-wage jobs in Southern Oregon. Two of my sons make a satisfying living as organic farmers in Southern Oregon. Yet these **two sons (and all their farmer friends) share deep concern about climate change**—including impact on traditional crops, loss of soil moisture, dropping of the water table. **I myself (and two friends) can no longer spend summers in Ashland because drought-driven wildfires make managing our asthma impossible.** As a psychotherapist in private practice, I have during the past three months been surprised that for the first time **most of my counseling clients** prioritize session time to **talk about their fear that the federal government will abandon our environment—especially the climate.** When I attended Senator Wyden's recent town-hall meeting in Ashland, I was again surprised to see at least ten times the number of attendees as I had seen in any of the many town-hall meetings I have attended since 1996. **From two shows of hands it was clear that 1) the overwhelming majority were attending their first town-hall meeting and 2) their primary concerns were protection of the environment and climate.**

These are just personal snapshots. They are not the primary reasons why I am writing you. Climate care is not the only big challenge that we cannot help but pass on to future generations. **But climate care is the only challenge that may not come with a salvageable remnant of the opportunity now in our hands. Therefore the Rogue Valley's interfaith community is embracing climate care as the moral challenge of our time and perhaps all times.**

SB557 will to bring green jobs and much needed investment to Oregon's most vulnerable communities—benefits already enjoyed by 10 others states that have enacted similar bills. B557 is also the only climate pollution bill proposed in this session that addresses all greenhouse emissions—including methane which in the long run causes 80% more warming than carbon. Please help pass SB557 in this session.

Sincerely,

Joan Kalvelage, PhD

