



March 1, 2017
From: Audubon Society of Portland
Re: Senate Bill 557

Statement in Support of Senate Bill 557

Senator Dembrow,

As you and your committee are undoubtedly well aware, climate change is one of the single gravest threats facing our society over the next several decades. Far-ranging effects on Oregon's ecosystem end up adversely impacting productivity and stability of our ecosystems and natural resources for both humans and for sensitive species.

As a state that relies heavily on our relationship to the land, Oregon is a proverbial "canary in the coal mine" when it comes to climate change. Our economy relies on a sustainable, well-managed interaction with our environment, and climate change threatens the very core of that balance. In fact, just this past winter, we saw the effects of extreme weather patterns on Oregon, as the state required millions of dollars in aid to dig out of our freak snowstorm and local businesses called the lost productivity an "unmitigated disaster."

Senate Bill 557 will take an important — but not final — step in addressing climate change through the management of carbon emissions and a transition to cleaner sources of energy.

A cap and invest program would enable Oregon to gradually reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lead to investments in efficiency and clean energy. Right now we are sending millions of dollars to out of state fossil fuel companies. We need to instead put that money to work here on clean energy solutions and jobs.

Even after passage of the measure, getting the details right will take continued vigilance at the legislative and agency level, and demands a long-term view of public health, environmental sustainability, and — yes — economic productivity. We ought to ensure that our goals are based on the best available science and that polluters bear the costs and penalties of their emissions.

Lastly, the measure works to ensure that transitions are fair for affected communities. Too often, climate change effects disproportionately impact disadvantaged communities. Senate Bill 557 will assist those living in affected areas as well as provide support for workers looking to transition into a cleaner economy.

Senate Bill 557 is an appropriate framework under which to continue the work of reducing carbon emissions and transitioning to clean energy. The Portland Audubon Society wholeheartedly asks for your support on this measure.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Respectfully,

Bob Sallinger
Conservation Director
Audubon Society of Portland

Founded in 1902, the Audubon Society of Portland is one of the oldest conservation organizations in the nation. It promotes the understanding, enjoyment and protection of native birds, other wildlife and their habitats through its conservation and environmental education programs, its 150-acre Nature Sanctuary and Nature Store in northwest Portland, and its Wildlife Care Center. For more information, call 503-292-6855 or visit www.audubonportland.org.