

21341 S. Ferguson Rd.  
Beavercreek, OR 97004  
March 1, 2017

RE: Clean Energy and Jobs bill (SB 557)

Dear Representative *on Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources*

Climate change is the issue most of concern to me. Not only do I care for my children's future, but my PhD professional training is in the area of Agricultural Meteorology and Climatology, I have researched the interactions of crops and climate, and I also have training and have extensively considered how we might adapt to a future without burning fossil fuels e.g. I have been trained as a Passive House Consultant, a type of housing that is so well insulated that a furnace is not needed.

It is urgent that we take action on climate change. In Beavercreek we had record rains this winter. Oregon City has been having continuing landslides. Last year there was a Christmas evacuation of the Newell Creek Apartments. This year in two incidents a water main and a sewer pipe broke that have to be re-routed and homeowners lost their homes and equity. In recent years west coast snow pack is reduced and many areas are subject to drought. The east coast has stronger weather. The Arctic is quickly melting and becoming a black heat sink rather than a white heat reflector. There are climate induced famines that have led to some civil wars. The UN has reported for some years that thousands are dying of climate-related causes each year.

There are many practical ways in which we can transition our economic fuel to fossil fuel. The most promising way to get us moving on all these ways is to **put a price on carbon. SB 557 represents a way forward.** It can achieve the goal of a steadily declining level of carbon emissions. While the bill would benefit from improvements, I ask that you pass the bill in the best form that can be agreed upon.

The improvements I would like to see are:

1. Revenue neutral. The carbon fee is routed back to Oregonians. Oregonians are resourceful and creative and they like to take responsibility themselves. We can trust the diverse intelligence in Oregon to use their carbon rebate to the best and most diverse advantage.

This improvement recognizes the rejection of regulation on the federal level but it makes sure there is an incentive for all to creatively eliminate carbon emissions.

2. The Environmental Quality Commission should develop the reduction goals to reflect the best science available.

3. The offsets should be eliminated. Lots of offsets are fakes. The public gets this and so offsets creates cynicism and a lack of trust in this effort. We all remember how ethanol was promoted despite the lack of evidence that it actually reduces carbon useage, but we know that this was a subsidy for corn farmers who wanted ethanol subsidized.

Please commit to taking action on reining in carbon emissions this session. Please support the best bill that the legislature can agree on so we can proceed with long-deferred action – scientist are warning that time is short. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Graser-Lindsey,  
PhD Bioenvironmental Engineering