

Testimony by Ben Carr and Bryce Cumpston, West Linn High School lobby club

Before the Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Of the Oregon Senate

March 1, 2017

Mister Chair, members of the committee, for the record my name is Ben Carr, and this is Bryce Cumpston. We represent the West Linn High School Lobby Club, an organization in which we advocate for the passage of legislation we believe is crucially important.

In this coming legislative session, all we ask is that you support the passage of Bill 557.

Amongst the student body, fear for the future of our environment is incredibly widespread. The students of Oregon know we lie at a critical time in our nation's history, at the crossroads between a healthy, productive environment, or a world in which the public lands have been sold to corporate interests, and the air is scarcely breathable.

We stand to suffer a severe financial impact as well; our generation is set to lose \$8.8 trillion dollars as a result of more frequent extreme weather events, more frequent outbreaks of disease, and increased food prices due to diminished farm yields. That is, of course, unless legislators take action.

In our research, we found the cap and trade program to be the most effective in preventing the disastrous effects of climate change. With cap and trade, entities are required to communicate with each other and trade headroom until they find a compromise in which each entity has what they need, without going beyond the overall state limit. It saves the government time and money by requiring entities to solve the matter themselves, while still maintaining a low level of CO2 emissions.

Therefore, in this time of instability and uncertainty, we ask you to follow your best judgement and protect our country's future by supporting SB557.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you, I'd be happy to answer any questions.