



April 3, 2017

Representative Ken Helm

Chair House Committee on Energy and Environment

Dear Senator Helm;

We are writing to ask you to support HB 3343, The Climate Test Bill and SB 557 The Clean Energy & Jobs Bill.

350.org focuses on Climate Change Science, working to mitigate further harm to our environment and to advocate for a pathway to a future with a stable climate and a viable growing economy with clean energy jobs.

To do this we must have legislation in place to both create (SB 557) and protect (HB 3343) our state, while society comes to understand the most crucial issue of our time; a transition away from fossil fuels.

HB 3344: The fossil fuel industry is banking on the Northwest to act as a gateway to send very polluting Bakken and Tar Sands oil to Asia. The pressure to allow pipelines and export terminals of record-breaking scale is increasing yearly. This will continue, even as it becomes obvious that we cannot afford to continue to rely on fossil fuels and the fossil fuel corporations' concerns for their "stranded assets" increase.

The requirement to examine the economic viability of a fossil fuel mega-project in a global energy economy that will limit global warming to well below 2 degrees C is both crucial and smart. If the likely economic benefits for staying under the 2 degree C temperature rise, cannot be shown to outweigh the negative impacts, the permit will not be issued. 2 degrees C is still 1 degree C higher than recommended by current science.

SB 557 is the path forward and offers mandates for the way monies will be spent from auction of pollution allowances that will support economically disadvantaged communities and can create much needed jobs in rural communities. We have seen the significant economic benefits in California and Ontario of a Cap, Trade and Invest Program. We are a relatively small state but joining with others in the WCI will build a solid economic basis for trading and a model for the rest of the world to follow.

We support the focus in both bills on health impacts to economically stressed communities where large fossil fuel infrastructures are located, and funding allocation to rural areas where jobs are scarce. Consideration of the impacts on Indigenous Tribes' ability to sustain their traditional ways of surviving is another important part of this legislation. Respecting and preserving Indigenous ways will protect us all in the end.

Thank you for your time and attention to these immensely important pieces of legislation.

Sincerely,

Patricia Hine and Debra McGee, 350 Eugene

cc: Linda Kelley, Lead Legislative Coordinator