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Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

SOCAN

Confronting Climate Change

**Testimony Submitted to the Oregon
House Committee on Energy and
Environment and the Oregon Senate
Committee on Environment and
Natural Resources Regarding the
Climate Test Bill HB3343 / SB 1007
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I write on behalf of over 1000 Southern Oregon residents who are Southern Oregon Climate Action Now to express support for HB 3343 / SB 1007 the Climate Test Bill. Those of us living in rural Oregon are well aware of the threats posed to our lifestyle by the climate change consequences of global warming.

We are seeing the increasing temperatures, the overall trend of dwindling snow water equivalent, advancing snowmelt, reducing river flow in late summer and fall, and reducing soil moisture. These trends pose threats to the natural systems we enjoy, our agriculture and our forestry. If humans do not address the underlying cause of these trends, the lives of Southern Oregonians will be dramatically compromised. Southern Oregon, furthermore, is in no way special; the trends described above are affecting the state and nation as a whole.

There is no doubt that Oregonians have a responsibility to do what we can do to contribute to the solution to this problem rather than continue as part of the problem. If we wish to ask others to reduce their emissions, we must reduce ours. While reducing climate pollution from Oregon will contribute to addressing the problem, we also must acknowledge that climate pollution wherever it occurs is a problem. This means that fossil fuels exported from the United States to burn elsewhere also contribute to the problem, not only as a result of the emissions at combustion but also a result of the emissions occurring from extraction through processing and transmission to delivery.

If we stick our heads in the sand and ignore the fossil fuels that pass through the state on their way overseas, we are deluding ourselves about the value of what we do. This is why SOCAN endorses HB3343 / SB1007. While there is no doubt that allowing Oregon and the Pacific Northwest to serve as a corridor for fossil fuel exports creates local construction and maintenance jobs, there are also economic costs associated with the emissions that result from extraction, processing, transmission, and combustion of these fuels.

It is worth noting that a study conducted on the impact of the array of fossil fuel conduits through the Pacific Northwest undertaken by the Sightline Institute revealed that, if constructed, the array would result in annual emissions of climate pollution equal to five times those resulting from Keystone XL. It is imperative, then, that we impose some restraint on the burgeoning rush towards ever more export pathways. One of the current problems we face in evaluating fossil fuel export proposals is that the DEQ can only assess emissions that occur within the state of Oregon. This means projects are approved that have immense emissions costs outside Oregon and, indeed, **any** regulated jurisdiction. The Climate Test Bill, if enacted, would remedy this omission by requiring that projects undertaken in Oregon shall be

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evaluated in terms of the full life cycle (cradle to grave) emissions stemming from the project. The assessment would be based on a comparison of the economic benefit of the project against the economic cost of resulting climate pollution emissions.

Since this proposal remedies a huge loophole in the current mechanism for evaluating fossil fuel export infrastructure projects, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now wholeheartedly endorses the bill.

Documentation:

De Place, E 2014 Northwest Fossil Fuel Exports: Planned facilities would handle five times as much carbon as the Keystone XL Pipeline. Sightline Institute.

<https://islandersforsafeshipping.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/nw-fossil-fuel-exports-sept-14-sightline-institute.pdf>

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