



Jessica Vega Pederson
Multnomah County Commissioner

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To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
From: Jessica Vega Pederson, Multnomah County Commissioner
Date: April 12th, 2017
Re: Support for SB 557

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

I am writing to you in support of SB 557, the Healthy Climate Act of 2017. This bill offers Oregon the chance to accelerate our transition to a clean energy future. In taking the step of passing SB 557 today, you are investing in a future that provides cleaner air and cleaner water for our communities and an investment in the stable, middle-class jobs critical to our state.

SB 557 will raise roughly \$700 million per year and allocate that money in grants to communities all across our state. These investments will have impacts ranging from the increased accessibility of clean power such as solar, to improved energy efficiency, the building of more affordable housing, and investments in more transportation options for our residents.

These direct investments are valuable because they create clean energy jobs that cannot be outsourced. Currently, jobs in the clean economy are growing at an annual rate of 11 percent. This is an incredibly fast-growing market, and if Oregon acts now we can establish our state as a global leader in the clean economy.

We also know that SB 557 will have a positive impact on the health of Oregonians. Pollution from gasoline and diesel emissions can trigger asthma attacks as well as other health emergencies. Due to their proximity to high-risk areas, low-income communities, communities of color, and the elderly are all at a higher risk of the impacts of these pollutants in our air.

The time to act is now. Two out of three Oregonians favor making the largest polluters pay for the costs of what they are putting in our air and water, and this method has been successful

elsewhere, including in California, nine states in the Northeast, and three Canadian provinces. The Multnomah County 2015 Climate Action Plan identifies the necessity of putting a price on carbon as a critical strategy to achieve our local greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

I hope you will take this important step to make Oregon a leader in the clean economy and pass SB 557 today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background. The signature reads "Jessica Vega Pederson" in a cursive, flowing script.

Jessica Vega Pederson
Multnomah County Commissioner
District 3, Southeast and East Portland