



April 17, 2017

Representative Ken Helm, Chair  
House Energy and Environment Committee  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Support for House Bill 2135**

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 2135, as amended to include language found in SB 557. HB 2135 and its outcomes will provide a critical pathway to reducing Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions while investing in a robust Oregon economy and healthy communities.

Nationally, E2 is agnostic regarding carbon pricing approaches, yet we support HB 2135 as an invaluable tool in meeting local and regional needs in the most effective, least cost, manner.

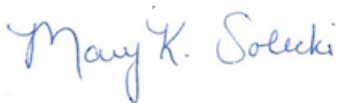
- Oregon needs an enforceable GHG emissions cap, along with existing complementary policies, as our emission levels are not tracking to achieve Oregon 2020 GHG's targets or beyond. The economic costs of unabated climate change for Oregon businesses are vast and far outweigh any potential costs associated with a Cap and Invest program. These costs are outlined in E2's 2016 report (E2, 2016).
- In addition to avoiding significant business and social costs, early mitigation and adaptation efforts embedded into HB 2135 present significant economic and job growth opportunities for business across rural and urban Oregon.
- Clean energy employs 3 million workers nationally<sup>1</sup> and is one of the fastest growing sectors of our economy. We should not cede this economic advantage to other states or countries.
- HB 2135 also accounts for and provides the flexibility to address adverse impacts of climate change and climate policy on negatively impacted business sectors and disadvantaged communities who are disproportionately impacted by price, pollution and climate impacts.

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<sup>1</sup> E2 clean energy jobs factsheet: [https://www.e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/E2\\_CleanEnergyJobs\\_National.pdf](https://www.e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/E2_CleanEnergyJobs_National.pdf)

Climate impacts are already affecting Oregon's economy and communities and businesses across the globe are making investment and location decisions based a welcoming clean energy environment. We urge you to seize the opportunity before us and send the message that Oregon is open for business by supporting this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mary Solecki  
Western States Advocate  
E2