

Testimony in support of SB 1507: Clean Energy Jobs

I'm Dr. Pat DeLaquil, an expert in the field of energy system modeling and policy analysis.

I strongly believe the future of our global civilization rests on the need to quickly transition to a zero-carbon energy future and to do so in manner that addresses economic development, job creation and the needs of disadvantaged communities that have so far borne the brunt of climate pollution.

Unchecked climate pollution (primarily CO₂ and methane) poses an existential threat to our global civilization.

We are already seeing increases in the number and severity major weather disasters, conflicts over access to resources and the creation of economic refugees due to climate change.

We must act NOW to mitigate the damage to our climate and to our way of life.

Fortunately, the solutions are already known, we only need the political will to make them happen.

The hidden benefit of transitioning to a zero-carbon energy future is the significant increase in good-paying technical jobs it will create, which will stimulate economic development – especially in our rural communities.

Electricity from wind and solar is already cost-competitive in several parts of the US, and the costs are continuing to come down. Solar energy alone now employs more people than the coal industry.

Direct benefits to Oregon's economy include:

- Growing Oregon small businesses through the investments made possible by this bill;
- Creating good-paying jobs and new opportunities for Oregon workers through job training;
- Allocating funds to help the communities hit first and worst by climate pollution; and
- Enabling families and small businesses across the state to take advantage of renewable and energy efficiency upgrades that will save money on utility bills.

Oregon must join the growing number of state and national governments around the world taking positive actions to mitigate climate change because it's the right thing to do, and because being a leader in the clean energy future will spur economic development in our state.

Oregon already has a significant clean energy resource base and significant room to grow more clean energy for our own needs and for export.

A transition to a clean energy economy over the next 30 years can be done.

It will require increased investments in energy efficiency and clean energy technologies, *but* it will save more than enough money in fuel expenses to repay that investment.

Oregon should be a leader and join the growing number of states acting in their own interest as well as the common good to manage this transition in a manner that creates more economic development and good quality jobs than following the current fossil-fuel pathway.

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