

Don Merrick
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February 7, 2018

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Chair, Senator Michael Dembrow
House Committee on Energy and Environment Chair, Representative Ken Helm

Re: Testimony for SB 1507 and HB 4001, The Clean Energy Jobs Bill
For public hearing scheduled for February 7, 2018, at 3:00 pm

Dear Senator Dembrow and Representative Helm:

I write to convey my enthusiastic support for the passage of SB 1507 and HB 4001.

The process leading to these bills, still ongoing with final amendments, has been extraordinarily rigorous. I highly commend the committee chairs, the committee members, the committee staff, the legislative counsel, the designated work group members, and the many people, both public and private, both Oregonians and other interested entities, that have contributed to this effort. It was the dedicated work between the last legislative session and start of the 2018 session that so impressed me. The 4 work groups that convened in the fall of 2017 undertook a difficult and transparent assignment to resolve contentious issues, and delivered an exceptional product.

My concern is a lack of urgency expressed by many legislators and members of the public. To suggest that these bills are simply a copy of California's bill or that these bills should again be put aside for more important legislative concerns is wrongheaded and irresponsible.

As long as the concentrations of greenhouse gases have an upward trajectory, humanity is allowing increasing deaths and destruction of our biosphere. One simply needs to read the 16 whereas clauses found on pages 1 and 2 of the SB 1507 and HB 4001 to understand the exceptional urgency of reversing the trajectory, and these bills will contribute to that effort. While they extend that contribution, these bills, so rigorously and professionally assembled, will also serve as a exemplary model for other jurisdictions considering similar legislation.

We, all Oregonian citizens, have an intergenerational responsibility to reverse our contributions of harmful greenhouse gas emissions as soon as practical, and passage of these bills will accomplish that end.

Sincerely,

Don Merrick