

February 6, 2018

To:

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
House Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: HB 4001 and SB 1507, "Clean Energy Jobs"



Guided by the values and expertise of medicine and public health, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) works to protect human life from the gravest threats to health and survival including climate change and its environmental hazards. Below is our statement on House Bill 4001 and Senate Bill 1507 in the 2018 session of the Oregon Legislature, otherwise known as "Clean Energy Jobs."

In order to achieve the just, healthy climate future that we need, there must be great measures taken at every level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other toxic pollutants while supporting a just transition to a renewable energy economy. Clean Energy Jobs (HB 4001 and SB 1507), if improved, can be an important tool to protect public health by reducing pollution from large sources of dirty energy creation and usage and investing in communities most impacted by climate change.

Oregon PSR supports the passage of Clean Energy Jobs during the 2018 session if improved in the following ways:

- **Allowances for polluters:** No more than 25% freely assigned allowances for emissions-intensive, trade-exposed industries; base on strict criteria, including proof of trade exposure; do not codify. No freely assigned allowances for utilities (investor- or customer-owned) even to recognize Coal to Clean (SB 1547) compliance. Require consignment of up to 100% of utility allowances and use proceeds for principles/outcomes as outlined in HB 4001 Section 21 for low-income households.
- **Offsets:** Limit to 0-2%; if used at all, must have clear and measurable benefits for climate; restrict to Oregon-only projects. Prohibit use of nuclear power, fossil fuel-generated energy projects, forest biomass energy projects, and incineration of medical and municipal waste as offset projects. These activities should be deemed ineligible to receive benefits through investments, offsets, and/or any mechanism established through this legislation.
- **Exemptions:** Eliminate any exemptions for fluorinated gases, due to their high potency as greenhouse gases.

- **Study:** Include sufficient funding for a state study to determine which indicators are most predictive of vulnerability to climate change.
- **Accountability:** Ensure transparency, equity, use of best available science, increased tribal representation, accurate monitoring and easy public access/review of offset projects, investments, greenhouse gas emissions, and investments in most impacted communities, including communities of color in non-rural areas.
- **Grants/Climate Investment Funds:**
  - Prohibit use of Climate Investment funds for nuclear power, fossil fuel-generated energy projects, forest biomass energy projects, and incineration of medical and and municipal waste.
  - Investments in private forests must, at a minimum, comply with forest carbon density guidelines as described by the Oregon Global Warming Commission.

Climate change is a public health emergency. Health professionals call for zero or minimum carbon offsets, no investments in expensive, toxic nuclear power, and robust, reliable equity mechanisms. We will do everything in our power to pass a strong Clean Energy Jobs bill that protects the most vulnerable in our communities, facilitates a just transition, and holds polluters accountable.

We applaud Chair Helm and Chair Dembrow for their commitment to taking strong action to address global climate change and look forward to the next iteration of the Clean Energy Jobs bills, expected later this week.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.



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