

You are considering the Clean Energy Jobs Bill designed to cap Oregon's carbon emissions, place a price on carbon, enter an established emissions market, and return money throughout the state for a green future. Some suggest that the legislature should not think about the issue in the 2018 "short session". It should.

This is not a "new proposal" but a well-developed piece of legislation years in the making. In 2016 the legislature approved a significant Department of Environmental Quality study identifying potential problems and solutions. The Department has given you a report comparing and recommending the methods this will be accomplished. The 2017 bill built on this work and resulted in multiple hearings with input from all sides. This fall public work groups met over a dozen times bringing together legislators from both parties and an array of interested participants to finely tune how a cap and invest plan would best work for Oregon businesses.

This is not a half-baked idea coming to the legislature with little time for proper consideration but the end of a long, deliberate legislative process. It's ready for action now. The legislature should not wait for more heat, drought, and wildfires before it acts. The problem is imminent and a well-considered solution is staring us in the face. Pass the Clean Energy Jobs Bill now. Thank you for all you do.

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