



February 2, 2018

The Honorable Michael Dembrow and The Honorable Ken Helm
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Dear Chair Dembrow and Chair Helm,

Throughout our 127-year history, the Port of Portland's (Port) people have faced, weathered and overcome some of our state's greatest economic challenges. We've learned from first-hand experience that Oregon's biggest problems aren't solved by small thinking. They're solved by brave leadership and bold action.

The Port believes that climate change represents the deepest, most dangerous environmental threat the world has faced because we see its effects every day in the work that we do: rising sea levels, colossal storm surges, historic flooding and increased fire risk.

In Oregon, we have made significant progress toward meeting our emissions reduction goals. The Port is greatly concerned, however, that the state is not currently on track to meet its 2020 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target. That concern is what brings me here today: to meet that target, the Port believes Oregon needs to adopt a cap and trade program such as those offered in HB 4001 and SB 1507.

As the legislature considers new climate policy, we offer legislators some background on how the Port has managed its own climate impacts to date, as well as our perspective on key elements we believe are essential to any successful state-wide carbon emissions reduction initiative.

What the Port Has Done

1. We've Committed to a Low Carbon Future:

The predicted impacts of climate change on our facilities, operations, supply chain, customers, stakeholders, and our communities are serious. The Port's climate change strategy focuses on two areas: continuing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to a changing climate.

2. We've Reduced Our Carbon Footprint:

The Port has reduced our carbon footprint by more than 60% below our 1990 baseline level, despite a significant increase in our operational activities. And we are committed to continuing the path to long-term sustainability and emissions reductions.

3. We Actively Encourage and Empower Others to Minimize Their Carbon Footprints:

We understand that delivering on our mission results in additional carbon emissions from our supply chain, customers, tenants and the public. We have policies and guidelines to

encourage our partners to minimize their carbon impact. We continue to champion the development of a commercial-scale market and supply chain for regional sustainable alternative fuels.

From our own experience in developing emission reduction strategies, we strongly encourage legislators to ensure that any new state-wide carbon emissions reduction policy addresses the following questions:

Does the policy provide emissions reduction certainty?

It's critical that any proposed carbon policy be linked to a specific greenhouse gas emission reduction goal, require results in absolute greenhouse gas reduction, and verify that emissions are real, permanent, quantifiable, enforceable and reported.

How does the carbon policy impact social equity?

Oregon must evaluate how a proposed carbon policy could impact our state's historically underserved populations. The state should work and share information with community partners engaged in environmental justice and remain engaged and connected with these partners once the policy is adopted.

Does the policy provide regulatory certainty?

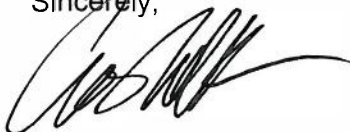
The proposed cap-and-invest policy should provide regulatory certainty and give companies the ability to meet goals at the lowest cost. Oregon businesses, as well as the Port, need a predictable regulatory environment in which to create an effective emission reduction strategy.

How will the policy impact Oregon's businesses and economy?

We believe Oregon businesses deserve to understand how any new policy will impact their operations and economics. Before a cap and trade program is activated, a thorough analysis should be conducted to better understand the economic impacts of the policy and how to minimize potential negative impacts on Oregonians. We believe that if the policy's impacts are well-understood, Oregon businesses can innovate, grow, and be a part of the solution in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change isn't a theory. It's a reality experienced every day by our people: our staff, our neighbors, our customers and our partners, here in Oregon and around the world. As executive director of the Port of Portland, I want to express my personal gratitude for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,



Curtis Robinhold
Executive Director