



OUR CLIMATE

February 7th, 2018

Representative Helm and Senator Dembrow, Chairs
Members of the House and Senate Committees on Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 4001 Senate Bill 1507

Chairs Helm and Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

I am here today on behalf of Our Climate to express our support for HB 4001 and SB 1507, both of which have the potential to simultaneously decrease demand for fossil fuels and spur an economy-wide transition to clean energy.

Our Climate is a national, millennial-led organization that mobilizes and empowers the generations most affected by climate change to pass equitable, science-based policy. We aim to hold polluters accountable for climate change by putting a price on greenhouse gas emissions.

Our Climate started right here in Oregon in 2013, as a small but mighty grassroots group called Oregon Climate. Since 2013, we have asked for bold state leadership on climate and introduced several bills to price carbon in this state legislature. In 2015, I sat in front of many of you as I co-introduced a carbon pricing policy to the House Energy and Environment Committee on Oregon Climate's behalf. In the three years that have passed, I've stayed engaged with statewide carbon pricing work, watching as year after year we are told to wait until next session. There wasn't time to wait another year in 2015, and there certainly isn't time, today.

Oregon is one of seven states considering carbon pricing policy in 2018. As the legislature considers the bills before this committee, we ask the House Bill be passed as soon as possible and that the following considerations are met prior to passage or in the rulemaking process that follows. We must make the Clean Energy Jobs bill as strong as possible to ensure it is effective.

- **Reduce free allowances for EITE's from 90% to 50%**

- **Amend that SB 1507 meet the same offset standards as HB 4001, while retaining the provision that half of offset projects are specific to Oregon and applying this same stipulation to HB 4001.**
- **Meaningfully engage frontline communities in the rulemaking process to ensure that this policy helps, not hurts, those who are simultaneously least responsible for climate change and affected by it the most.**

Unlike politics, science has predictable, physical limits. The consequences of exceeding those limits are tangible. I can no longer speak in hypotheticals about the effects of climate change, as we are already experiencing them. As houseless people die from exposure to aggressively harsh winters, ash rains over our homes due to heart wrenching forest fires, and storms around the world increase in magnitude, we must be doing everything we can to stop climate change in its tracks today.

To begin this process, Our Climate firmly believes that you must pass the strongest version possible of the Clean Energy Jobs bill [this legislative session](#). Not only will this policy help bring about a much needed transition in our state, but it will help set a model for this transition across the country.

Beyond Clean Energy Jobs, I hope you'll remember that there is not just one policy to address a problem as all-encompassing as climate change. Once Clean Energy Jobs is passed, you must keep working together to pass the many other much-needed policies to spur the transition to a clean energy economy in our state. This isn't just a box for you to check, it is our future.

Our Climate supports HB 4001 and SB 1507 and urges this committee to pass the strongest version of these bills this session. We depend on, and are grateful for, your leadership.

Sincerely,

Sydney Scout
Board President
Our Climate