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Rogue Climate

Re: Clean Energy Jobs Bill

Rogue Climate is a community based organization located in Medford, OR working to transition our rural communities to clean energy. Since Rogue Climate was founded in 2014, we have worked with city governments to develop local clean energy action plans, created rural jobs through energy efficiency programs, and worked to stop projects that would take us backwards like the Jordan Cove LNG Export Terminal.

While weather patterns may vary in any particular year, we can see the trends that scientists have long predicted. Record heat, reduced water supply, increases in fires, worsening air quality, new insect infestations – all this threatens our quality of life, our health, and our businesses and jobs. Within our rural communities, low income families, communities of color, children and the elderly, and Sovereign Nations are facing the impacts of climate change first and worst. The need to tackle climate change and transition to clean energy is urgent.

Rogue Climate supports strong climate policy that reinvests in communities that need it most to help transition to clean energy and prepare for a changing climate. We support current provisions in the bill that create opportunities and protections for communities that are most impacted by climate change and that ensures that a fair transition to a clean energy economy leaves no one behind. As we transition our state to a clean energy economy and as the impacts of climate change intensify, some sectors will be hit harder than others. It is important that workers and rural communities are provided with transition and retraining support by expanding access to apprenticeship and training programs and that in the short term low income Oregonians are protected from rate increases.

As legislators are considering the Clean Energy Jobs Bill in 2018, we urge you to strengthen the bill in the following ways:

- **A stronger cap:** The 'cap' should limit Oregon's share of climate pollution based on the best available science. Scientifically-based reductions means a reduction of pollution to limit an increase in earth's average temperature to less than 1.5 degrees C by 2100, as Governor Brown committed to in 2017 by joining a coalition of US states to achieve the goals of the Paris Climate Accords.
- **All sectors should reduce pollution and pay their fair share when they pollute above the cap:** No communities should be left with an unfair burden of pollution. The current bill should be strengthened to eliminate exemptions for coal, fluorinated gases, and marine and aviation fuels,

while free allowances for energy-intensive, trade-exposed industries should be limited to no more than 25%.

- **No new fossil fuel infrastructure:** The bill should include a provision to prohibit the development of any new fossil fuel infrastructure after 2018 that would undermine our states progress towards meeting our climate goals.
- **Consider lifecycle emissions:** By selectively regulating emissions, instead of considering full lifecycle emissions, the Clean Energy Jobs Bill would not regulate the full quantity of climate pollution that Oregon is responsible for, especially if the state approves pass-through fossil fuel infrastructure such as the Jordan Cove LNG Export terminal. The bill should include capping life-cycle emissions.
- **Reduce or eliminate offsets:** Offsets should be limited to 0 - 2%. If offsets are used, they must have clear and measurable benefits for the climate and for communities. Offsets should be restricted to Oregon to ensure accountability and in-state benefits.
- **Administration of the program is effective and accountable:** Disproportionately affected populations, such as rural, low-income, and communities of color, must have meaningful representation in decision-making bodies for both policy and fund allocation. This includes adequate representation on decision making bodies from Sovereign Nations.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments,

Hannah Sohl


Director, Rogue Climate