

My name is Gary Wallmark and I'm a citizen member of the climate change group, 350 Salem OR. I've been closely following the hearings, work groups, and press coverage on the Clean Energy Jobs Bill and have noted one theme among skeptics I'd like to address. They charge that since "Little Oregon's" contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions is relatively small we needn't act to curb it. (As an aside, I should note that many of these same skeptics also oppose significant action by the "Big USA", but I'll stick with only discussing "Little Oregon's" impact today.)

I could make a similar point with my state taxes. Although I benefit from state services, my taxes are such a small part of state revenues that I should be excused from paying them. Let others pay their taxes but excuse "Little me". But that's not right - society flourishes when we all share in solving joint problems. I should do my part and pay my taxes, even though my share is relatively small.

Oregon shares in causing greenhouse gas emissions. The question is not whether "Little Oregon" should stand alone to curb greenhouse gas emissions; the real question is why Oregon doesn't join governments from around the country and the world in doing its fair share to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Many cities, states, provinces, and countries (over 190 countries in Paris — many with a smaller carbon footprint than Oregon's) have pledged to do their fair share. Several have placed a price on carbon emissions. "Little Oregon" should, too.

"Little Oregon" doesn't produce fossil fuels. We should move away from the use of imported fossil fuel energy sources to produce more homegrown renewable energy here, keeping the profits and the jobs here in "Little Oregon".

"Little Oregon's" not too small to be part of the big solution. Pass the Clean Energy Jobs Bill