



February 7, 2018

Honorable Senator Dembrow, Chair-Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
Honorable Representative Helm, Chair-House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR

RE: Testimony in support of Clean Energy Jobs Bill

Chairman Dembrow, Chairman Helm, and members of the Joint Committee:

Thank you for accepting testimony on this important topic, my name is Alan Zelenka, and I am serving my 12th year as a Eugene City Councilor, 6th year as a member of the Oregon Global Warming Commission, and have worked professionally across the country in the energy industry for over 34 years. However, today I am only speaking on behalf of the City of Eugene. I come before you today to provide testimony in support of the Clean Energy Jobs Bill HB-4001 and SB-1507, seeking to create a state-wide carbon cap and invest system.

I want to first state clearly and for the record, the City of Eugene is committed to addressing global climate change and strongly supports the passage and implementation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction legislation in Oregon. Local governments and communities, while leading the way, cannot address the challenge of climate change and meet our goals without state led leadership and coordinated action.

Eugene has taken great strides, starting in 2010 with the development of our Climate and Energy Action Plan, followed by the adoption of the Climate Recovery Ordinance in 2014, to become the first city in the country to put our GHG reduction goals into law and require an action plan to meet the goals. In 2015, our City Council adopted Resolution 5130-Supporting A Carbon Pricing Policy for the State of Oregon, because we see local and state action together as critical to our future. We updated the Climate Recovery Ordinance in 2016, creating a new goal, one based in climate science that establishes a target reduction of 7.6% annually from our community's 2010 GHG emission levels. Most recently, Mayor Lucy Vinis and I convened an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee that developed our plan for updating our Climate Action Plan over the course of the next 18 months. Our approach includes widespread community engagement and direct work with large stakeholder organizations across our community.

While all this policy work and action planning is leading edge, it is only a portion of the full puzzle. The 2017 Oregon Global Warming Commission Report to the Legislature indicates that Oregon's GHG reduction goals will not be met by existing and planned actions. It states that Oregon is warming with notable consequences, and the state's current policy and programmatic efforts are insufficient to address the challenges ahead. But we already know this. No longer are

we faced with scientists and environmental advocates telling us about the perils of global warming, rather we are experiencing it first hand through drought, reduced snow pack, and the catastrophic wildfires which choked our communities across the West this summer.

Local elected officials are taking a stand and providing leadership to the communities which we serve. These policy decisions are not taken lightly and have been deliberated, debated, and researched for years. Yet, resoundingly, local officials are voting to take action and show leadership on addressing climate change. The Legislature has seen multiple climate and energy proposals to date and has taken great efforts to address the energy resource issues our state faces. It is now time to show leadership to coordinate state-wide action and investments of public resources. We need you to take action to meet our state and local goals.

Taking action to support HB-4001 & SB-1507 really isn't that far of a political leap. While there are voices, that decry the need for action, the majority of Oregonians are in favor of public agencies taking action on climate change. For instance, our community recognizes the need to take immediate action in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with over 75% of Eugene residents agreeing that stronger regulations of GHG emissions are needed. Supportive state policy provides the essential and complimentary platform for local action. It is time for the Oregon Legislature to take comprehensive, economy wide action, on addressing our climate challenges.

The proposed legislation includes a strong cap and invest system designed from the experiences of other carbon cap and invest systems in California and British Columbia. Since implementation in California, their economy has soared creating over 2 million new jobs, the population has increased, and they have reduced their GHG emissions by about 28%. We can do the same.

This legislation is landmark in its focus on utilizing proceeds to address impacted communities, thereby reinvesting in Oregonians who will need it most. The legislation provides new funding streams that will help fund transit programs, renewable energy investments, and energy efficiency improvements; helping create an energy efficient economy. Lastly, this sets our path as a leader in a low carbon economy, which will attract more and more businesses whose shareholders are concerned with the triple bottom line of planet, people, and prosperity.

On behalf of our community and for future Oregonians, thank you for your service, and I urge you to pass the Clean Energy Jobs Bill.

Sincerely,

Alan Zelenka
Eugene City Councilor, Ward 3 (submitted electronically).