



February 7, 2018

Chairs Dembrow and Helm and members of Senate and House committees,

It would be easy to say that Oregon AFSCME Council 75 supports SB 1507 and HB 4001 because we represent employees in state and county agencies who do environmental and public health work and call it a day. We could also easily say that we support the bills for the investments on transportation infrastructure. However, the scope and reasons for supporting these bills are far greater and too numerous to completely cover.

From the environmental and public health perspectives, we know that greenhouse gasses as well as the standard long regulated pollution contribute to growing instances of asthma, heart attacks and other health emergencies. The instances of these health issues are more prominent for our children, elderly and medically fragile and also disproportionately impact lower income communities and communities of color. By creating a cap on greenhouse gasses and other pollutants, we begin to reduce harm and in the long run the costs associated with these related illnesses.

From a perspective beyond the health aspects, AFSCME represented employees at agencies such as the Office of Emergency Management are feeling the pressures of dealing with natural disasters made worse by climate change. Our county roads departments have more road repairs and other weather related issues made worse by climate change. Our cities are impacted through planning for things such as long term water supply. The list of agencies whose work is impacted by climate change is long and by creating clean power, more transportation options and increasing energy efficiency we can reduce the adverse effects of climate change and the high costs associated with it.

Oregon AFSCME Council 75 supports SB 1507 and HB 4001 because we know that it past time to take big steps to reduce greenhouse gasses from our environment and invest in the kinds of jobs that will provide a cleaner environment, better health, and a better economy. We urge you to vote yes and pass the Clean Energy Jobs bill this session.

Eva Rippeteau
Political Coordinator
Oregon AFSCME Council 75