

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
House Committee on Energy and Environment

February 8, 2018

Chairs Dembrow and Helm and members of the Committees:

On behalf of The Living Earth Farm, I am writing in strong support of SB 1507 and HB 4001 also known as the Clean Energy Jobs bills. My farm has signed on to [a letter](#) from over 135 agricultural stakeholders including farmers, ranchers, and vintners urging the Oregon State Legislature to pass the Clean Energy Jobs bill this session.

We have been farming since 2007 on 15 acres west of Eugene. We grow vegetables, fruits, chickens, sheep, and pigs which we sell to our CSA members and local natural food stores and restaurants. We use organic methods and are currently learning about and experimenting with regenerative agriculture techniques to increase carbon sequestration in the soil. Several years ago we put in solar power and got an electric vehicle for deliveries.

When climate change exposes our crops and our livestock to extreme and unpredictable fluctuations in temperature and precipitation, our yields and economic security are threatened. Farming is all about timing, but how can we get our timing right when our climate becomes more and more unpredictable? We have had apples flowering in September, rhubarb making new stalks in November, pruned grape vines bleeding in early February, and lambs getting fly strike in early May. We have been through two severe icestorms which damaged our fences and buildings from falling trees and cost us an extra \$700 for propane to run our generator because our power was out for so long. The health of our livestock suffered from breathing forest fire smoke for many days last summer. We need strong climate policy to protect Oregon agriculture.

Proceeds from the Cap and Invest program would be directed to projects that mitigate climate change and reduce impacts on those most impacted by climate change. The bill funds agricultural practices that sequester carbon in the soil, purchases of energy efficient equipment, and improvements to agricultural land. Farmers can benefit from the policy in multiple ways: when Oregon does its part to stabilize the climate; from grant funds to adopt/maintain climate-friendly practices; and/or from selling credits generated by offset projects (certified emission reductions) to regulated parties. In order to do regenerative agriculture properly, we need equipment which is too expensive for a small farm like ours to purchase. When this bill passes, we plan to get together with other small farms nearby and submit a grant to purchase a roller-crimper and a no-till-drill that we could share and use to do regenerative agriculture.

Oregon's farmers can be part of the solution by adopting practices that sequester carbon in the soil and reducing energy use. Farms are an important part of the solution to the

problem of a changing climate, and this bill recognizes that. Please do all you can to advance this important legislation in the 2018 Legislative Session.

Thank you for your consideration and your action on this important issue.

Sincerely,
Sharon Blick
Owner/Operator
Living Earth Farm
Eugene, OR