

2/11/2018

House Energy and Environment Committee

RE: House Bill 4001

Please find this letter as written support for House Bill 4001. For the past decade Oregon has been working hard towards passing a bill to reduce pollution and force large pollutant contributors to take accountability for their actions. Bill 4001 offers new job growth opportunities while having a direct impact in reducing the health related issues due to air, water and environment pollution related to greenhouse gas emissions. Since 2007 this bill has been amended and improved to fit the needs of Oregon, and to produce the most successful outcome. With ten current US States executing cap-and-invest programs, we have been able to use these leaders as examples and lean on their history to show these programs are successful and offer solutions to climate pollution and burning of fossil fuels.

Oregon offers many offset opportunities, including West Side East Side Forestry and Eastern Oregon Grasslands. By enforcing a cap on emissions, while also invoking a minimum local purchase of offsets, it helps generate state revenue and support for local farmers and ranchers who are currently carrying the burden of climate pollution. This bill would allow small ranchers like myself to be active participants as sellers of Oregon offsets.

Though the reduction target of reducing pollution to 80% below the 1990 level by year 2050 is ambitious, we are confident that Oregon is ready to take on the challenge, and begin investing in solutions now. This is a necessary step in order to prioritize our commitment to clean energy and start our course to reducing emissions and their harmful consequences.

Thank you,

Soter Vineyards
Tony Soter