

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

February 9, 2018

Chairs Dembrow and Helm and members of the Committees:

On behalf of the South Willamette Chapter of the National Young Farmers Coalition, representing 25 members in Oregon, I am writing in strong support of SB 1507 and HB 4001 also known as the Clean Energy Jobs bills.

The National Young Farmers Coalition is focused on supporting practices and policies that will sustain young, independent and prosperous farmers now and in the future. Our farmers are dealing with the effects of climate change daily, and it threatens their success. When climate change exposes Oregon's crops to extreme and unpredictable temperatures, farms yields and economic security are threatened, and for beginning farmers still starting out that can prove catastrophic. We advocate for sustainable farming practices and many of our young farmers are implementing climate friendly agricultural practices as they are able, but as beginning farmers access to capital and resources can be difficult. 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 multiples 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.

Oregon's young 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,

Katy Giombolini  
Co-Leader  
South Willamette Chapter  
National Young Farmers Coalition