

To:

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

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House Energy and Environment Committee

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February 8, 2018

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Olsen, and Members of the Senate Environment Committee
and
Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Power, and Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee:

Thank you for your consideration of SB 1507 and HB 4001 (Clean Energy Jobs bill – Cap, Trade, Invest).

I am writing today to urge passage of this important step forward for Oregon and for our long-term economic and environmental health.

EC Company has been in business in the Pacific Northwest for 72 years, providing comprehensive electrical services across the industrial, commercial, solar and advanced technology business sectors. We recently joined the Oregon Business Alliance for Climate because an urgent response to climate change is imperative. This legislation asks us all to find creative ways to engage business in this conversation, asks us to help establish realistic and achievable parameters that lead to long-term societal benefits and acknowledges that businesses have a responsibility to contribute to solving a complex challenge.

This proposed legislation will reduce Oregon's emissions through a well-designed, market-based carbon pricing program, aligns with Oregon's climate goals, maintains the viability and competitive health of existing Oregon businesses, and mitigates impacts on low-income communities, communities of color, and rural communities.

As a company that values sustainability, and as a member of the Oregon Business Alliance for Climate, we support moving forward with cap and invest legislation that meets these key principles in the 2018 Legislative Session. Importantly, passing the Clean Energy Jobs bill now will also free up the Legislature to focus its attention on revenue in 2019 and position our state to be a leader in the growing clean energy economy as the 21st century unfolds.

Our families, farmers, business owners, fishermen and firefighters are all bearing the burden of climate pollution – today in the way of drought, wildfires, extreme weather, and rising acid levels in oceans. The cost to our state is substantial and cannot be stated strongly enough.

As the Statesman Journal just noted in its endorsement of passing this legislation in the 2018 Short Session, "Oregon's pioneering spirit shouldn't end with the bottle and beach bills. It's time for Oregon's Legislative Assembly to prioritize our air quality and pass the cap-and-trade legislation". We couldn't agree more. We have done the hard planning work. The time to act is now. Oregon should once again be an environmental leader.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to speak with you further about this important legislation.

Andrew L. Beyer, President
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