

February 14, 2018

Chair Dembrow and Chair Helm
Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment

RE: Support for SB 1507 and HB 4001

Chair Dembrow, Chair Helm and Committee Members,

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the professional association for social workers in the USA. On behalf of our more than 1,400 Oregon members, the Legislative Committee of NASW Oregon is writing to ask for a do-pass vote on SB 1507 and HB 4001. NASW's "Policy on the Environment" in Social Work Speaks (pub. 2008) calls for support of "policies that reduce individual and collective carbon footprints...the elimination of fossil fuels, where feasible, to be replaced with clean energy...and policies that reduce environmental risks that disproportionately affect poor, minority, and disadvantaged communities."

For several years, our Committee has been following the efforts of the Oregon Legislature and of community organizations to develop a carbon reduction bill. We are thankful to Senator Dembrow, Representative Helm, and all the members of the workgroups from the fall of 2017 for their hard work, their time, and their collaboration to clarify and improve the Clean Energy Jobs bill to align more fully with our values by:

- The promotion of adaptation and resilience in Oregon's communities and economy in the face of climate change
- Investments in programs that provide financial support to dislocated and impacted workers
- Financial supports for mental health services or related workforce assistance for workers adversely affected by climate change and climate change policies
- Program governance that is designed to include a diverse group of stakeholders
- Provisions to link the Oregon program to other North American jurisdictions with tax and invest programs to create a greater impact

There is an urgent need to address climate change. A bill should be passed in this session. The proposed program will not be operative until January 1, 2021 while the details and rules are developed. Passage now of a consolidated bill will allow Oregon to move ahead. In not so many years, we will look back at this time and wonder why there was hesitance to act. **Please vote to pass.**

Thank you,

Josh Shamoon, Chair
NASW Oregon Legislative Committee