



February 7, 2018

House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Helm, Chair Dembrow, Representatives and Senators,

RE: HB 4001 and SB 1507

Children First represents the interests of Oregon's 880,000 children and believes that together, with communities and leaders across the state, we can build a state where all children thrive. Beginning in 2015, Children First has worked with our partners to identify legislative proposals that will help achieve that vision. Our partners have determined that implementing the Cap and Invest otherwise known as Clean Energy Jobs is the right policy for Oregon's children.

While Oregon has only a very small part to play in the total emissions of greenhouse gasses within the United States and around the globe, we must be good stewards of our world for future generations. The litter of one person may not despoil an entire landscape, yet we teach our children not to litter for the benefit of others. For the same reason, Oregon should not play a part adding to the greenhouse gasses that will cause climate change. We are hardly good stewards if our lack of action keeps us on the path of climate degradation and weather disruptions, with the harmful effects seen not only in our lifetimes, but even more pronounced in our children's lifetimes and beyond.

More immediately, Children First recognizes the importance of protecting low-income families from the costs that any transition could cause them. By prioritizing vulnerable populations the legislation will protect low-income families by offering rebates to cover any increase in energy rates, and offer retraining to displaced working parents while encouraging economic growth in new occupations.

Growing climate disruptions will have a disproportionate impact on Oregon's poor communities, especially those found in rural areas and communities of color. For these reasons and more, Children First for Oregon asks for your support for HB 4001 and SB 1507.

Sincerely,  
James Barta, Strategic Director