

21 Feb 2018

Re: Clean Energy Jobs bill HB-4001

Dear Chair Williamson and Vice-Chairs McLane and Rayfield and other members of the House Committee on Rules:

Future generations of Oregonians will look back at this moment in history. They will realize that we were fully aware of the mounting risks posed by climate disruption to all sectors of our society. They will also know that cost-effective, clean energy technologies were already available to avoid the dire consequences of inaction while providing good jobs in the very industries that will power the future. 2018 will be a turning point. It's now up to us whether we turn towards a bright future or towards an uncertain path battling the aftermath of climate change. I urge you to pass the Clean Energy Jobs bill in this session.

The bill is the result of years of careful research and draws on the best elements of successful climate legislation in other jurisdictions. There are many reasons why we should not wait. Climate disruption is accelerating. The longer we wait, the harder it will be to recover and the more it will cost. Forbes magazine stated U.S. economic losses for climate-related disasters exceeded \$300 billion in 2017, a new record. The projected incremental costs of pennies per gallon of gas cited by the bill's opponents pale in comparison to the actual costs we are already incurring from climate change.

Waiting would also put Oregon's businesses at a competitive disadvantage. Economies around the world are de-carbonizing at an increasingly rapid rate. Oregon needs to do the same. The CEJ bill offers a market-based approach with the least cost to encourage more businesses to use clean energy to produce their products and services. This is the economy of the future and this bill will help ensure that Oregon does not get left behind. Goldman Sachs predicts that \$3 trillion will be invested in clean energy over the next 20 years. Economic winners in tomorrow's markets will be those who anticipate and meet the growing need for climate-change solutions.

Scientists warn that increasingly dire consequences are getting "baked" into the climate system. The bill's opponents know that continued use of fossil fuels as a primary energy source is unsustainable and restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions will eventually become universal. Given that reality, opponents see delaying as a win. But, it is really a loss for everyone, especially today's youth and future generations.

Please pass the Clean Energy Jobs bill in 2018.

Sincerely,

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