

February 21, 2018

Chair Williamson,
Members of the House Committee on Rules
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 4001 - STRONG SUPPORT

Dear Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee,

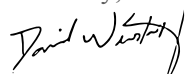
NextGen America strongly supports House Bill 4001, the Clean Energy Jobs Act, and we urge you to pass this important legislation as soon as possible.

With a dysfunctional government in our nation's capitol, it's now up to states, like Oregon, to stand up to the Trump Administration's attacks on our fundamental rights. In 2018, the country will be looking to Oregon to prove that there is a cleaner, more prosperous path forward, one that puts people before oil corporations, protects clean air and water, and creates good-paying clean energy jobs.

Despite Republicans' efforts at the federal level to prop up dangerous and uneconomic fossil fuels, the Trump administration cannot stop progress on the fight against climate change. In 2017 alone, California reauthorized its cap-and-trade program and passed companion air quality legislation, states and cities across the country announced their plans to uphold Paris Agreement targets, and new Governors pledging to take climate action were elected in Virginia and New Jersey. Leaders across the country are now watching the cap-and-invest debate in Oregon to see whether momentum for strong climate action at the state level will carry over into 2018.

NextGen America urges you to vote Yes on House Bill 4001 to support of clean air and water, and a stronger clean energy economy.

Sincerely,


David Weiskopf

Climate Policy Director, NextGen America

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From the Portland Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/portland/news/2018/02/21/exclusive-billionaire-tom-steyer-on-why-hes.html>

Exclusive: Billionaire Tom Steyer on why he's backing cap and trade in Oregon

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Feb 21, 2018, 11:47am PST

When cap-and-trade opponents tried to take down California's groundbreaking law in 2010, billionaire investor Tom Steyer stepped forward with \$10 million to help defeat a ballot initiative. The founder of San Francisco-based Farallon Capital Management isn't going quite so far in Oregon. Still, his NextGen America organization, which has expanded Steyer's political focus beyond climate to issues like health care and immigration, has put \$200,000 toward supporting cap-and-trade legislation in the state. The group said a portion of that money is now being used to mobilize supporters to contact their representatives, urging passage before the 2018 session closes in just over two weeks. We talked to Steyer about what's motivating the Oregon campaign and where he sees the U.S. headed on climate under President Donald Trump.



You've been focused heavily on your "Need to Impeach" campaign, and you've said you'll spend \$30 million to help Democrats take control of Congress. How does a cap-and-trade bill in little Oregon fit into that picture? Our mission is to act politically to prevent climate disaster, to promote prosperity and protect the fundamental rights of every American. So there you go — "act politically to prevent climate disaster." Boom! It's right in the heart of what we stand for. So, gosh, of course, at a time when the likelihood of positive movement from the federal government could be described as nil, it's really important for states and visionary state leaders to lead the way, so we want to support them if they do.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee is pushing a carbon tax. Would it be preferable if the state did cap and trade and joined with California and possibly Oregon in a united West Coast carbon market? We have a ton of respect for the leadership in Oregon and a ton of respect for the leadership in Washington. Every state has got to react in the way that its citizens and its elected officials think is most appropriate, so we're going to be supportive of that. Obviously, it would be good if the United States of America could pull together, something we've been trying to do for about 250 years I guess. Ultimately, yes, this is a national/global issue and it's going to require a national/global solution. But right now we're at a point where leadership in states has to do what it can do and we're going to support them.

California, like Oregon, has a big rural-urban political divide. How did that play out with cap and trade's renewal there last year, and are there lessons for Oregon? One of the things that cap and trade lets you do is figure out if someone is going to be disadvantaged. If rural citizens or businesses are going to be

disadvantaged, the program itself can be adjusted to direct either resources or permits to them. So if you look and see what happened in 2017 in California, a bunch of the Republicans who did support it were from the Central Valley, the heart of agriculture in the state. They came as part of an agriculture block, and the system is set up in such a way so to address any harm that could come about.

Do you support Republicans who might be politically vulnerable for backing climate action? We would always look at a host of issues in judging any candidate. We're not a one issue organization. And to be fair, we're hoping that saving humanity is not something Republicans have to be urged to do. My expectation when I started on this journey 10 years ago was that climate would be an issue Americans would support across party lines, across geographic lines, across every line and every division in American society because it would be something we would all take great pride in solving and would make ourselves healthier and richer. I don't understand the concept of having someone be dragged across the line when going across that line is going to help every single one of their constituents. I expect the Republican Party to snap out of its subservient behavior to the fossil fuel industry and start making good decisions.

There's been a lot of outrage among climate activists about President Trump. What's your assessment of his impact? Obviously they're trying to put us back in the fossil-fuel era, and that's broad-based, whether it's giving subsidies to coal plants or opening up the entire United States for drilling, or getting rid of any scientific research that would show that what they're doing is a despicable attempt to harm Americans. They're playing politics with the health and prosperity of Americans. I think it's slowing down the change and they should be ashamed of themselves. Unfortunately for them, they're fighting the laws of economics. If you go and look at the recent RFPs in Colorado or in Michigan or Arizona or in Nevada, you'll see that the cheapest energy is renewables plus storage. It's ridiculously cheaper than coal and cheaper than natural gas. And it's not like it's going to turn around. The advantage that renewables plus storage has now is only going to grow. So really what Trump is trying to do is get Americans to drive buggies not cars. He's trying to insist that we continue to use film instead of digital cameras. You know, no cell phones, only landlines. It's crazy.

Pete Danko
Staff Reporter
Portland Business Journal

