

February 7, 2017

Chair Williamson and members of the House Rules Committee,

I urge you to do everything you can to move HB 4001 (Clean Energy Jobs Bill) out of this committee with a recommendation to pass the bill in the 2018 session. This bill has received thorough and intensive consideration by both House and Senate Committees during previous sessions and work groups that met between sessions. Because of this work HB 4001 is ready for passage in 2018.

I am a member of 350 Salem OR, the local affiliate of the international climate action organization 350.org . My concern for climate change predates the emergence of the 350 network and it was that concern that motivated my involvement in climate change activism. For years I have watched with growing dismay as the earth warms from greenhouse gas emissions, and as the harmful impacts of that warming become ever more evident while the political will to confront the climate crisis lags.

With outright climate change denial rampant in the federal government, it's up to state and local governments to act on climate. Before I retired and moved to Oregon in 2011, I lived in the Boston, MA area. While there I saw how revenues from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) in several north eastern states generated investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency for Massachusetts communities, along with the jobs and business development that those investments generated.

It's up to you to carry on the Oregon tradition of farsighted measures to protect the environment on which our lives and livelihoods depend. And it's up to you to enable the investment in Oregon's clean energy economy that will come with passage of a strong Clean Energy Jobs bill.

Thank you,
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