

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE  
REGARDING THE HOUSE CLEAN ENERGY JOBS BILL  
FEBRUARY 22, 2018

Rep. Jennifer Williamson, Chair, and Committee Members;

My name is Hans West. I am a retired physician and have a Masters degree and continued interest in Physics.

I'm here along with many people to emphasize how important it will be to institute carbon pricing in Oregon. This is the 4th time in 4 years that a carbon pricing bill has been and introduced and vetted. It's time to pass it. However we keep hearing that there's not enough time this Session for a complicated measure like the CEJ bill.

Also, in my opinion, simplistic and inaccurate arguments are being made against the need for carbon pricing. Allow me to paraphrase an example: "Increasing levels of CO2 are desirable". Are we supposed to believe that global CO2 levels that have been stable for the last 10,000 years, when human society and agriculture developed, need to be higher?... that more CO2 is a good thing? Having plants growing in greenhouses with elevated levels of CO2 doesn't prove this; it's a lot more complicated than that.

Another flawed argument we are asked to accept is that historic CO2 levels of 250 to 300 ppm do not have a significant, **positive** effect on global temperatures. That defies solid science based on data from the last half of the 19th century and all of the 20th.

Of course there are other factors that contribute to earth's temperature. However careful studies have shown that they are not significant driver's of the current decades long pattern of continuing temperature increases in the atmosphere and oceans. Rising CO2 levels, however, do correlate with this.

We need to enact sensible state policies and actions!

In that vein, I want to acknowledge the bipartisan Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia bill, SB 1039, introduced in 2017 by Senators Roblan and Kruse. This passed with all but 2 Senators and 3 Representatives voting for it. The bill clearly acknowledges that there is global ocean acidification, and this is clearly caused by increasing CO2 in our seas.

Thank you, committee members for the work you do.

Hans West,  
545 Waldo Ave SE  
Salem OR 97302