

To: Chair Williamson, Vice Chair McLane, Vice Chair Rayfield and members of the Committee

February 22, 2018

RE: HB4001 Clean Energy Jobs and Amendment 12

Please pass HB4001 now, this session, so the rules can be written and the processes modeled between now and 2021. I am listening to the House Rules Committee hearing now and am amazed and disappointed by the testimony I hear against the bill and the Dash 12 Amendment.

HB4001 creates a market based system that enables businesses to decrease their emissions over time and to buy and sell allowances as needed to keep their businesses profitable while they make investments to decrease their CO2 emissions. Some businesses might find this challenging and it is sad that they delayed improving their processes thinking that cheap oil and gas will last forever. Those times are ending. This bill will help businesses adjust to the change more gradually than when the price of old fossil fuel technology spikes to the actual cost. The World Bank has already banned investment in new oil and gas projects.

HB4001 has provisions that will stimulate our economy with investment in renewable energy and conservation that will reduce CO2 emissions. The portion of the fees that will go to communities hardest hit by climate change will help the rural areas that we hear will be hurt by any gasoline increases.

The Draft 12 Amendment would not be needed if the House and Senate are able to consider the long term impact of climate change and have the foresight to imagine solutions. I have not heard on objection that cannot be overcome with a little imagination and innovation.

I heard testimony that DEQ cannot be trusted to consider the needs of business and agriculture. I disagree. If this is a concern of yours, pass the full bill which requires a Program Advisory Committee that includes representatives from business and agriculture. I also heard testimony that many industries have done a lot to reduce emissions. I am happy they have and it is still not enough. The 'free market' alone cannot sufficiently reduce CO2 levels. If it could we would have ended our dependency on fossil fuels over the past 30 years since the effects of global warming became evident. As Mayor Wheeler said, the time is not now, the time was 20 years ago.

I urge you to pass HB4001 and use the Dash 12 Amendment as a stop gap if the full bill does not pass. The state of our economy and the future of Oregon depends on it.

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