

From: [Connie Peterson](#)
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Support for meaningful climate action
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2020 3:55:47 PM

Dear Members of the Committee and your colleagues:

My name is Connie Peterson. I am an Oregon native and current resident of Bend. In offering testimony in support of strong and significant legislative action to address climate change, e.g. as currently being worked on in LC 19, I am not a partisan outlier but among the majority of Americans who are concerned about climate change. 69% of all Americans regardless of political affiliation shared my worry in 2018 per the [Yale Program on Climate Change Communication](#). Given the breadth and intensity of climate related events that have occurred in the intervening months (e.g. in Australia, the Amazon, etc.) it can be reasonably assumed this high level of concern has not abated!

Unless a person chooses willful ignorance, they must be aware of scientific consensus and the dire predictions put forth by the International Panel on Climate Change and the Worldwide Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community. Although these portend a bleak future, focusing only on the problem leaves too many of us mired in fear or despair.

Rather than regale you with facts about the impacts of climate change to our State, which I am sure have been convincingly articulated by many experts, I want to speak to the importance of hope--of your having courage and even excitement about embracing a strong cap and invest program. The possibilities outweigh perceived costs--bottom line, the cost of inaction is frankly horrifying.

Please do not succumb to the cynical and inaccurate fear tactics being promulgated by corporate polluters. The outcry about gas prices is a red herring. Market factors have more to do with the price of fuel than any carbon pricing program, as evidenced by California's experience since their enactment of a program to curb carbon emissions. Extreme weather events, which will only become more common with climate change, are the actual determinate!

Although I generally understand the need for compromise in a republic form of government. I find it perplexing and frustrating that Republican Senators in Oregon apparently choose to ignore majority opinion, and doubt they would support ANY meaningful action on climate change. For this reason, I implore you to strengthen LC19. In doing so you can set Oregon on an achievable path to help stabilize our climate, reap the economic rewards of investing in communities across our State, and turn despair to optimism.

In requiring the largest polluters in our state to buy allowances or invest in legitimate improvements, we could achieve multiple benefits--health wise and economically-- for our communities. As a recently retired social worker, I have spent a significant portion of my life working with and on behalf of disadvantaged persons. I find it outrageous that the opposition preys on the fears of these communities. Protections, subsidies, and investments to benefit low income and most impacted communities are vital elements of the legislation I am asking you to support and strengthen.

This is not the time for retreat, pay polluters to continue business as usual, or abdicate your moral imperative to attend to the unfinished business of last year's Clean Energy Jobs Bill.

Rather, this is your time to lead. Take bold action. We have an opportunity to contribute

to absolutely necessary efforts at all levels of government to help stabilize our climate,
make our state stronger, healthier, and more prosperous.

Thank you,

Connie Peterson

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