

From: [Victoria Meier](#)
To: [SENR Exhibits](#); [Sen Wagner](#); [Rep Prusak](#)
Subject: Testimony in favor of strong climate legislation
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January 17, 2020

Concerning LC 19 – Testimony in favor of strong climate legislation

To All Oregon Legislators:

First, I am deeply grateful that you are discussing and attempting to implement a bill that will address climate change and how it affects all Oregonians. Capping fossil fuel emissions is of paramount importance, as is investing in clean energy.

How can I import how critical this is to me? I feel safe here in the Willamette Valley, but it's a false safety because our actions as Oregonians are interconnected with the larger world. Not Rome but Australia is burning. Hurricanes are stronger and fiercer along the Atlantic Seaboard and in The Gulf. The ice has been dangerously thin for the Iditarod for over five years. People suffered a killing heat wave in Paris, of all places! How can I look into the faces of my grandchildren if we do nothing but think in the short term and answer only to money? I cannot, and I suspect you cannot either.

It is disappointing that three aspects of this Cap and Invest bill need real improvement: transportation, natural gas, and investments in impacted communities.

I'm okay with phasing in the transportation so that the rural population of Oregon can have some time to adjust. However, there needs to be a final date for rural Oregonians to be included, say 2030. It is not okay to leave that open-ended. Further, this bill must be linked to the Western Climate Initiative so we can cooperate fully with our neighbors.

Next, rate relief for low-income users of natural gas is an excellent idea, but it's not enough. There must be stronger incentives for industry and commerce to curb their emissions. Polluters must pay. How else can they be encouraged to stop allowing harmful greenhouse gases to raise the earth's temperature even more? It must affect their bottom line, and one way to help do that is to have energy audits on a regular basis.

Last, the bill that is written must have clear language for how impacted communities will receive aid. Whether they are along the coast, in poor neighborhoods or in isolated rural communities, the people who are most affected must have a say in what is to be done to mitigate both current and future situations as they arise. This must be part of the bill.

Again, I thank you for the hard work you do, for the research and conversations that lead to your decisions, and for the heart work you do for all of us. We must have strong climate legislation this year.

Sincerely yours,

Victoria Meier

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