

From: [Jane Stackhouse](#)
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Cc: [Sen Baertschiger](#); [Sen Olsen](#); [Sen Dembrow](#); [Sen Roblan](#); [Sen Golden](#); [Sen Findley](#)
Subject: The cost of doing nothing
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Attachments: [2018-08-13_CC_Costs_to_OR.pdf](#)

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Olsen and members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

I was pleased to attend the hearing on LC 19 January 13, 2020 and look forward to the final bill with additional improvements to increase governance. It is essential that communities most impacted by climate change (farms, forests, fisheries and low income communities) have input and oversight on how funds are spent.

I was dismayed to listen to Senator Baertschiger's press conference on January 15, 2020 where he hypothesized the cost of LC 19. The economic impact report has not been completed. More significantly, Senator Baertschiger fails to recognize the significant cost of doing nothing.

I have attached a research study by Ernie Niemi, President of Natural Resource Economics, [Paying for Oregon's Future: Costs Climate Change Will Impose on Oregon's Households](#). This 2018 article lists three important costs of continued inaction on capping greenhouse gas emissions.

Here are the report's core findings:

1. If recent trends in GHG emissions continue unabated, the seven categories of climate-related costs will grow until, sometime in the near future, they impose additional costs, relative to today, totaling about \$15,000 per household per year. Some costs, like those from exposure to climate-related wildfire smoke, could materialize immediately, but others, such as increases in food prices will take longer to materialize.

2. The costs from future GHG emissions will grow rapidly if recent trends in GHG emissions continue unabated. Global emissions in 2020 will impose costs of \$6 billion on Oregonians, but 2040's emissions will impose costs of \$21 billion, 3.5 times as large.

3. Quick action to curtail future emissions to levels necessary to hold mean global warming to no more than 2°C could reduce the cost from 2040's emissions by 60 percent.

Senator Baertschiger opined that LC 19 could cost Oregonians \$650 per year. Even if he is correct, taking action will save Oregonians \$14,350 per household per year (\$15,000 - \$650). Clearly action to cap emissions, price pollution and invest in clean energy solutions will save Oregonians money. It is the right thing to do and must be done in 2020.

Sincerely,
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Grandmother
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