Subject: Strong Support for LC 19, Oregon's Cap and Invest Legislation

I urge passage of a strong cap and invest bill during the short 2020 Legislative session. The climate crisis is well documented from the burning of our forests to ocean acidification. Urgent action is needed.

I attended the Hearing on 1/13 and appreciate the testimony given. I recommend the following improvements:

Natural Gas: I am pleased that low income users will be provided rate-relief, LC 19 provides too many giveaways, however, to commercial and industrial users of natural gas which allows them to continue polluting as usual. We must maintain as a first principle that polluters pay for their pollution to incentivize rapid reduction of their harmful GHG emissions.

In addition I recommend that the periodic energy audits of those users designed to encourage increased energy efficiency also address fugitive methane emissions.

Transportation: A geographic phase-in first of the Portland Metropolitan area and later including the 44 cities that use at least 10 million gallons annually that covers almost 90% of all emissions is a compromise that I can live with though I am concerned about gaming of the system. I advocate for inclusion of all of Oregon under this program by 2030 at the latest. Such a phase-in would only be acceptable as long as the Oregon program can still link to the Western Climate Initiative.

Investments/Governance: The degree to which impacted communities will receive needed investments to both mitigate and help adapt to climate change is uncertain. Allocations to impacted communities need to be more explicit and the governance of the program needs stronger representation by those impacted communities.

Please, act now - the costs will only be much greater if you delay.

Sincerely,

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