

Dear Senate Committee Environment and Natural Resources,

My career has been spent working with young people. When they ask me how we got to this point, when they question the very fact that the human race has a future, we've reached a turning point. If you have children, grandchildren, or nieces and nephews, consider carefully what sort of legacy you're leaving them.

Further, the fact that so many animals, plants and insects are in decline on land, in rivers and in marine environments around the world should give us all pause. Do we have the right to drive so many fellow creatures to extinction? If we don't take the necessary action, how will we live with what we've done?

Please consider this testimony in favor of strong climate action in 2020.

We are in a climate crisis that demands strong climate action. Oregon's oceans are becoming more acidic and wildfires are growing more frequent and massive.

The current bill is a good framework but it isn't strong enough. Senate Bill 1530 (formerly Legislative Concept 19) is currently too weak to meet the state's goals for reducing harmful pollution and provides too many giveaways to the fossil fuel industry, allowing these corporations to continue polluting as usual, harming our health and the climate. Ultimately, this proposal is too weak to meet the demands of the climate crisis.

SB 1530 needs to be stronger to reduce pollution from fossil fuel natural gas and increase investments for the clean economy. It needs to be stronger to reduce greenhouse gases from oil companies all across the state. And investments into communities most affected by climate change -- rural, low-income, Tribes and communities of color -- need to be guaranteed.

Oregon's young people need strong climate action. They need leaders to pass strong climate legislation that will protect the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the soil that grows the food they eat. That's why Oregon's youth have been taking to the streets in record numbers in all parts of the state. They are calling for leaders to pass strong policies that will give them a future free from devastating climate disasters and collapsed economies.

Oregon's most vulnerable populations need strong climate action. People in poverty have the most to lose under climate change natural disasters and have fewer resources to bounce back.

Rural Oregon needs strong climate action. They are on the front lines of climate change. From ranchers in Union County to tree farmers from Clackamas County to farmworkers in the Willamette Valley, there are strong voices from rural Oregon calling for action and their voices shouldn't be ignored.

Please build upon the work you have started with SB 1530 by making the bill stronger and pass bold climate legislation in 2020.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Phil Harris  
2642 SE 48th Ave Portland, OR 97206-1517