

20 January 2020

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To the Oregon State Legislature
In support of strong climate legislation

Dear fellow Oregonians...

Again, this year we have an opportunity to make Oregon a model for responding to climate issues that threaten both our environmental and economic future. As a grandfather and an earth scientist the risks of not stepping up to the plate on these issues are not abstractions for me. As a native Oregonian who grew up in a family dependent on the timber industry, I am all too aware of the challenges posed by past legislative proposals such as HB2020 to the communities I was raised in. However, I am also very aware that inaction when it comes to protecting natural resources will be far more damaging in the long run than any short-term economy inconvenience caused by them.

On the docket for this year is another proposal, LC19. Though it falls very short of what is needed to make it effective climate legislation, it is never-the-less a start. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to pass this legislation with the following amendments...

1. Preferential treatment (exemptions and allowances) not be given to natural gas producers and industrial gas users. While natural gas can be a useful bridge to a more carbon neutral economy, it is not a viable long-term energy source.
2. The coverage of transportation in the bill be strengthened. Nationally, transportation constitutes nearly a third of all carbon dioxide emissions (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories 2014). To not have an effective and binding mechanism to reduce emissions from this section is a major oversight.
3. Oversight of the Climate Investment Fund be strengthened to include representatives of tribes and other front-line communities disproportionately impacted by climate change.

We have for nearly a decade missed a critical opportunity to leave a positive legacy to our children, grandchildren, and their peers. Let us not miss it again.

Frank D. Granshaw