

January 13, 2020

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Amelia Porterfield, Senior Policy Advisor for The Nature Conservancy in Oregon. We are a science-based, non-partisan organization committed to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Oregon, TNC has more than 80,000 supporters with members in every county. We manage lands and waters across the state and partner with neighboring foresters, farmers, ranchers and fishers. We see firsthand the impacts of climate change.

At the coast, the ocean is warming and becoming more acidic, impacting the health of our fisheries and the businesses that depend upon them.

In Southern and Eastern Oregon, hotter, drier conditions are increasing the threat of catastrophic wildfire, putting forests, rangelands, and nearby communities at risk.

Addressing climate change is a top priority for TNC in Oregon and around the world. We support passage of a strong carbon pricing bill that cuts carbon emissions through an efficient, economy-wide program based on the best available science. We also prioritize participation in regional greenhouse gas emissions reduction programs, investments in natural & working lands, and protecting climate-impacted communities as important elements of a cap and invest bill.

LC 19 offers a framework that can help Oregon meet its carbon reduction goals and make much needed investments throughout Oregon. However, we believe some changes are needed for the program to succeed, and offer the following comments on the bill:

- The best available science says we should aim for net zero emissions by 2050. Maintaining the strong target of reducing emissions 45% by 2035 is an important step toward meeting this goal.
- We would prefer greater emphasis on emissions reductions and a transition to renewable energy sources in the use of Natural Gas proceeds, which we believe will be necessary to meet the reduction goal.
- The transportation sector is Oregon's largest source of carbon emissions... and growing. On transportation fuels, it is important to bring all of the state into the program as soon as possible.
- The offsets language needs refinement, but a number of stakeholders are willing to work together to develop consensus language, and we're glad to continue our engagement on this issue.
- We support the proposed investment in natural and working lands and wildfire mitigation, which play an important role in sequestering carbon and reducing emissions.

The need for urgent action is clear. Oregon has the responsibility to contribute its share to address this global crisis. This session presents the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and momentum for climate action, while ensuring that the working landscapes that have defined our state remain productive and thrive.

Thank you for the dedication that brought us to this point. We look forward to continuing to work closely with you to pass a strong and effective carbon pricing policy this session.