

**From:** [Kathleen Newman](#)  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** SB 1530: STRONG CLIMATE ACTION TESTIMONY  
**Date:** Friday, January 24, 2020 9:21:42 AM

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Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Olsen and Members of the Senate Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

My name is Kathleen Newman. I have held many roles in my life but today I write to you as a concerned citizen, a PhD environmental scientist, and as a mother.

We have known about the dangers to humanity of climate change for more than 25 years. I remember in the early 1990s reading model predictions that the effects would really start to be seen in 2020. That seemed like a long time off back then. It seemed that there was plenty of time to act before the "feedback loops" kicked in and made protection of civilization as we know it difficult or impossible to achieve.

Feedback loops are things like the addition of vast amounts of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere from the fires in Australia; and, accelerated melting of the Fox Glacier in New Zealand because of the ash from those fires. White glaciers reflect heat back into space. Dirty glaciers melt much more quickly and leave instead dark, heat absorbing rock and soil. Another obvious feedback loop is the release of vast quantities of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, from the arctic tundra as it melts due to warmer arctic temperatures. Melting of glaciers and release of methane are akin to flipping switches that we cannot flip back. There is no way to undo these effects that will accelerate a shift in the climate, threatening civilization as we know it.

So, cut the rhetoric about saving the planet. We are talking about saving our children and grandchildren.

With that in mind, I urge all lawmakers to pass the strongest legislation possible, so that at least Oregon is standing up and doing what is right, and setting an example for the country and for the world.

Stop listening to fossil fuel interests. They are required by law to lobby for the best deal for their stockholders. I remind you that their stockholders are also human beings with equal stake in our humanity.

Please pass the strongest possible legislation to reduce carbon dioxide and methane emissions and to reduce our contribution to flipping switches that cannot be switched back!

Yours sincerely,  
Kathleen Newman  
Hillsboro, Oregon, 97124, United States

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