

**From:** [Daniel Rivas](#)  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1530  
**Date:** Friday, January 24, 2020 1:19:11 PM

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Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Olsen and Members of the Senate Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, please consider this testimony in favor of strong climate action in 2020.

We are experiencing a climate crisis that will last centuries, but our leaders in Salem and across the country only offer us complacency. Oregon's oceans are acidifying and its forests are burning. Asthma grows in the lungs of our children as cancer grows in the lungs of their parents. The plants and animals that help sustain life on this planet are disappearing. Someday sooner than we think, we too will disappear.

I'm not telling you anything you don't already know. And yet, the response seems more about putting a "win" on a resume than taking meaningful action. I don't accept this and I don't accept the current state of SB 1530.

After Senate Republicans walked out last year, they abdicated their social and moral responsibility to offer a solution to the devastation that we face. They lost all credibility as legislators charged with improving the welfare of the people of our state.

You should not shrink in the face of their negligence. You should be offering an even stronger bill, one that goes further to reduce emissions and makes an even stronger commitment to environmental justice because we all will have to give something to reverse this crisis, but what we give needs to be in proportion to our privilege and ability.

I come at this issue as someone who grew up in a farming town. My dad was a migrant farmworker. He missed school so that he could work cutting asparagus, picking berries, and digging potatoes. And he made life better for me. As a kid, I spent summers working in the spinach fields, but I never missed school for work and I enjoyed opportunities he never imagined.

What I'm saying is I understand economic hardship and how hard it is to make your living from the land. Doing nothing to address the climate crisis doesn't change those realities. In fact, it's likely to make life a lot harder as rains become less predictable, storms grow more destructive, and water is more scarce. Without meaningful climate action rural communities are in trouble—and don't let any astroturf group tell you differently.

I appreciate the intention to address carbon in Oregon, but intentions are not enough. Please work to make Senate Bill 1530 stronger and to pass bold climate legislation in 2020.

Sincerely,

Daniel Rivas

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Please reply to Daniel Rivas at [danielrobertrivas@gmail.com](mailto:danielrobertrivas@gmail.com).

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