From: DAD"S OFFICE PC
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: Testimony to Senate Interim Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources re LC 19
Date: Friday, January 24, 2020 11:18:28 AM

To: The Oregon Senate Interim Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources

Dear Chair Dembrow and Vice-Chair Olsen:

I strongly support the Oregon legislature adopting in the 2020 short session a strong cap and invest bill to address climate change. Specifically, I support what I see in LC 19.

In the 2020 legislature HB 2020 was derailed primarily due to concerns from some rural residents. I respect those concerns, but they are ill-founded. Not fighting climate change will do more harm and more immediate harm to rural Oregonians, as they will be hit the hardest by increased temperatures, increased wildfires, lower summer river flows due to lower snowpacks, and other impacts of global warming caused by greenhouse gases. Allowing global warming to proceed unchecked will jeopardize the rural economy and way of life by putting our forestry and farming at risk. While I support reasonable measures to lessen the short-term burdens rural areas might bear, it's essential to keep in mind that the short-term burdens of a cap and invest program are far outweighed by the long-term benefits of enacting a cap and invest program.

While I live in a city, like most urban Oregonians, I have rural connections and a concern for my rural fellow citizens. One of my grandfathers was a county sheriff in a rural area, and the other a lumber grader in a lumber mill. I am convinced that taking strong action now by adopting a cap and invest bill serves the interests of all Oregonians, rural and urban.

I urge the legislature to pass a strong cap and invest bill, grounded in the best science, that will put Oregon on a path to reducing carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by 45% or 50% by 2035, and to net zero emissions by 2050. This needs to be an economy-wide program. And I strongly favor including funding for natural climate solutions on working lands from the proceeds.

Our children, grandchildren, and future generations deserve a beautiful, prosperous, Oregon with healthy forests, farms, rivers and wildlife, like the one we have enjoyed. Global warming caused by burning fossil fuels, and the emission of other greenhouse gases, may deny future generations the same Oregon we have enjoyed. We owe it to them to take action to rein in climate change in order to protect their future.

Steve Cook, Portland