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We cannot compromise with Mother Nature. We may have already passed the level where it is possible to stop the increasing degradation of the climate, much less turn it around. We are in a climate emergency. Listen to the scientists. Pay attention to the birds, the fish, the plants. Oregonians are lucky to live in a temperate latitude, and may temporarily enjoy the brighter sunnier days of spring and fall, a warmer winter, but what about the disappearing glaciers, the decreasing snow melt, the extremely hot, dry summers?

In the early 2000's the Australian ecologist Tim Flannery wrote a book titled *The Weather Makers*. My hippie daughter had been warning me about climate change, and I wondered where she got such crazy ideas. How could mankind affect the atmosphere? But I learned how, in that book. As a scientist, Flannery had also questioned how human beings could impact the climate, but he was studying species extinction. and he began putting two and two together. His book illustrates with terrifying urgency, how we can and have changed the climate, beginning with the industrial revolution, and continuing exponentially with alarming speed. What I find incredible is how anyone can ignore what has now become more and more obvious. It is unconscionable that the drivers of destruction, those who profit from the fossil fuel economy, factory farming, war and military profits keep doing what they're doing.

Now is not the time for half measures. We must fight them as if our lives depended on it. Because they do! We can turn this disaster into an opportunity. Climate mitigation, sustainable jobs, clean energy .. technology and human ingenuity have provided the way; all we need is the will!

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