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

My name is Tessa James Scheller, I met many of you when serving as a Community College trustee. Thank you for your continued work on the critical issue of this climate emergency.

I started a Watershed Council back in 1998 but the salmon are still imperiled as is all life on this planet. It is past time for decisive and bold action.

We need improvements to the transportation portion of the bill so all oil companies pay their fair share no matter where they're located. Oil companies are the largest source of pollution in our state and we cannot let them off the hook.

As written, this bill would pay fossil fuel polluters to continue business as usual. We can't afford business as usual. We cannot allow legislation to move forward that is climate action in name only, while it fails to hold large polluters accountable.

This bill needs a guarantee in investments in communities hardest hit by the climate crisis -- rural, low-income, Tribes, and communities of color. While there are aspirations to prioritize those communities in the current version, Oregonians deserve a guarantee.

I trust you will support changes to this bill and support the passage of bold climate action in 2020. This issue is too important for us to turn our backs while our forests burn, our fish die, and water runs out in parts of our state. We can't wait any longer.

Yours sincerely,

Tessa James Scheller

Warrenton, Oregon, 97146, United States

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Please reply to Tessa Scheller at tessa.james@charter.net.

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