



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 99-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.*

February 14, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction  
Co-Chair Senator Michael Dembrow  
Co-Chair Representative Karin Power

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**Re: HB 2020 – Clean Energy Jobs Bill – SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters has been at the forefront of national efforts to protect air, land and water resources. The League's position is to "Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment" and a focus on demanding pollution prevention. A recent 2018-LWV approved resolution reads; "The League of Women Voters supports a set of climate assessment criteria that ensures that energy policies align with current climate science. These criteria require that the latest climate science be used to evaluate proposed energy policies and major projects in light of the globally-agreed-upon goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees C, informed by the successful spirit of global cooperation as affirmed in the UN COP 21 Paris agreement." The League of Women Voters concurs with the IPCC Executive Summary (p. 50) in limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5°C: "[All 1.5°C pathways](#) involve limiting cumulative emissions of long-lived greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide, and substantial reductions in other climate forcers (high confidence). Limiting cumulative emissions requires either reducing net global emissions of long-lived greenhouse gases to zero before the cumulative limit is reached, or net negative global emissions (anthropogenic removals) after the limit is exceeded." Additionally, LWVOR and LWVUS jointly have *amici* standing with Our Children's Trust, 'Juliana v Gov' active federal lawsuit.

[HB 2020](#) reflects a policy framework based on a greenhouse gas cap, price and investment program that:

- creates local well-paying family jobs in our growing clean energy sector
- puts a cap on greenhouse gas emissions
- builds healthier communities by reducing medical bills and sick days from chronic disease like asthma
- ensures fairness by assisting and investing in disadvantaged and rural communities
- reduces Oregon's risk of drought and record-breaking wildfires
- safeguards our agriculture, tourism, fisheries and shellfish industries
- creates a structure of financial accountability for major emitters of greenhouse gases
- uses the free market for the greenhouse cap and invest program that allows Oregon the flexibility to link to other successful market-based programs.

The economic and health effects of climate change have been explored in detail in the [2019 OCCRI Climate Assessment Report](#), [2019 Berkeley Economic Advising and Research Report](#), [2018 Oregon Global Warming Commission Report](#), and [2018 Oregon Climate and Health Resilience Plan](#). These reports detail widespread negative impacts of global warming for Oregonians: firefighters, the timber industry,

eastern Oregon wheat growers and ranchers, farmers, fisheries, the recreation industry, the medically vulnerable, those with fewer resources to stay cool or warm, and all who drink the water and breathe the air.

#### EMISSIONS GOALS:

The 2035 interim goal of 45% emissions reduction is crucial for the success of our climate program. It prevents the release of more than 100 MMT CO<sub>2</sub>e of extra heat-trapping pollution into the atmosphere, and keeps us on track to meet our 2050 goal. (1,2) The 2018 IPCC Special Report on limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C and the 2018 Fourth National Climate Assessment both emphasize the importance of bringing global emissions to net zero by 2050. (3,4,5,6) The bill's 2050 goal of 80% emissions reductions will leave a balance of 20% of uncapped emissions. We need to guarantee that a full suite of effective techniques are available to sequestered, "scrub," repurpose or recycle the 11.2 MMT CO<sub>2</sub>e remaining, so that our net emissions are zero in 2050. Net zero emissions are achieved when anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere are balanced by anthropogenic removals over a specified period.

The world is on track to be uninhabitable by 2100 if our remediation measures are not immediate, encompassing both science-based GHG emission reductions AND measures to capture CO<sub>2</sub>. League members are actively working across the country to address this urgent moral issue. Oregon must join other states to form a climate stabilization network to bring us back down from our current CO<sub>2</sub> level of over 410 ppm to 350 ppm no later than 2100. We must adopt robust development of clean energy, the grid to integrate it and safe effective CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration techniques.

Oregon needs to do our share to protect our planet. The League of Women Voters of Oregon strongly recommends the passage of Clean Energy Jobs / 'Price on Carbon' legislation. We owe it to our children.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.



Norman Turrill  
LWVOR President



Julie Chapman and Claudia Keith  
LWVOR Climate Portfolio

1. Oregon Global Warming Commission, Biennial Report to the Legislature 2015, pp 32-34  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5a04ecba0d9297cba2643d80/1510272215601/2015+Legislative+Report.pdf>
2. Oregon Global Warming Commission, 2018 Biennial Report to the Legislature for the 2019 Legislative Session, p.37  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5c2e415d0ebbe8aa6284fdef/1546535266189/2018-OGWC-Biennial-Report.pdf>
3. <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-why-the-ipcc-1-5c-report-expanded-the-carbon-budget>
4. IPCC, Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C, Summary for Policymakers, Emission Pathways and System Transitions Consistent with 1.5°C Global Warming; <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/summary-for-policy-makers/>
5. Fourth National Climate Assessment, Reducing Risks Through Emissions Mitigation; <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/29/Mitigation>
6. IPCC, 2018 Special Report, Global Warming of 1.5°C, Glossary, <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>