

Dear Chairman and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

I am writing you to today to express my strong support for Clean Energy Jobs Bill (HB 2020). Even more, I ask you to please strengthen this bill to reduce the threat of climate change.

For the past 25 years, I was a summer seasonal park interpretation ranger at Crater Lake National Park, Oregon. I speak to you today as a private citizen not as a government employee. I absolutely loved this job with its duties of narrating the boat tours, trolley tours around the rim, evening campfire program, historical lodge talk, guided hikes, guided sunset hikes, geology talks, step-on bus tours, working the visitor center desk, and answering the phone calls, e-mails & letters to help visitors plan their visit to Crater Lake.

Sadly, while working there, I saw the negative impacts of climate change. I witnessed a diminishing annual snowpack, as well as seeing it snow less and rain more in the months of May, June, September and October. I saw the winters get less snowy, warmer, and shorter. Unfortunately, this caused the summer fire season to become longer, hotter, dryer, more intense and more costly to Oregon's economy.

For my last several summers there, I observed smoke from Oregon and Pacific Northwest wildfires so bad that visitors with asthma and other breathing difficulties had to cancel their visit to Crater Lake. When visitors cancel their vacations, that has a very bad impact on Oregon's economy. It means they are not spending money staying in hotels, campgrounds, buying souvenirs and necessities for their trip, eating in restaurants, visiting other tourist attractions, buying gasoline for their vehicle, etc.

Yes, changing forestry practices over the past century by excluding the natural role of fire has played a role. However, if you talk to wildfire experts and climate scientists, they will tell you that climate change is playing a major role increasing our fires in the west.

I grew up as a conservative Republican. Thus, I want to focus my testimony to the Republican members of the committee. As a President of my College Republicans in my sophomore while I attended William Jewell College in Kansas City Missouri 1989-1990, I valued a balanced budget, not adding debt, and smart economic growth. Climate change with the increased wild fires and unhealthy smoke is putting a drag on the Oregon economy. It is not sustainable.

A recent February 10th article in the Oregonian even stated that [Crater Lake crowds move to off-season, as wildfires take over summer](#). For three straight years now, the article stated visitors are coming less in the summer and more in the shoulder season to see Crater Lake because of the wildfire smoke. Wildfire smoke, exacerbated by warming temperatures from climate change, is lessening tourist visitation to Oregon. This cannot be good for our economy.

While working at Crater Lake, I tried to educate park visitors about the negative impacts on climate change at Crater Lake by creating a [Climate Change at Crater Lake](#) park handout, giving a evening campfire program about climate change from 2011-17 which was [recorded for YouTube](#) in 2012, and a [personal blog](#) in 2015.

The good news for Crater Lake National Park and our beautiful nature areas in Oregon is that we can lessen the negative impacts climate change is inflecting upon them. Climate scientists tell us that the

best way to do reduce the threat of climate change is to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions immediately.

The good news is that is the goal of [House Bill 2020 - The Clean Energy Jobs Bill](#). As you know, the goal of this legislation is "to achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions levels in Oregon...to at least 80 percent below 1990 emissions levels by 2050." This is what climate scientists say at the very least that the goal needs to be at least to reduce the threat of climate change. It's a good bill for Oregon's economy by creating jobs and improving our health from harmful pollution. Thus, I am asking you today to support this bill.

Before you fully support this bill by voting it out of committee and into the floor of both legislative chambers for a final vote though, I ask that you make improvements to strengthen this bill. My ask is in with coordination 350PDX, Renew Oregon, and other Oregon climate volunteer advocates.

1. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goals: The bill calls for 45% reduction from 1990 levels by 2035 and 80% reduction from 1990 levels by 2050. The latest climate science argues for even tougher targets: 20% by 2025, at least 55% by 2035 and 100% by 2050.

2. Allowances: Free allowances provided to electric utilities (currently 100%) should be reduced to only account for their RPS and Coal-to-Clean committed reductions. Free allowances for gas utilities are assigned in proportion to their low-income customer base to help mitigate increased fuel costs for those customers. All funds realized by utilities from sale of free allowances must be used to support low income customers through weatherization, solarization and bill rebates.

Energy intensive, trade exposed industries (EITEs) that are at risk of leakage (losing market share to out-of-state entities) are awarded free allowances, but the current benchmark of the sector-average emission factor is not ambitious enough and should be at most 90% of the average (as in California). EITE status should be needs-based only, regularly re-evaluated, and phased out altogether by 2030. The current level of free allowances (by our calculations) is 39%, and we recommend that free allowances be no more than 25% of total allowances.

3. Offsets: The bill allows any covered entity to use offsets (emission reductions from forestry and agriculture) to comply with up to 8% of their emissions. At least half of those offsets must provide environmental benefits for Oregon, and no covered entity can use offset if located near in a communities which suffer from poor air quality standards. The bill establishes an advisory board to monitor the program and ensure that offsets are real, permanent, quantifiable, verifiable and enforceable. In order to maximize fossil fuel emission reductions, we should limit offsets to the 4% and require all to have Oregon benefits.

4. Exemptions and Exclusions: All major polluters of greenhouse gases need to be subject to the cap. Semi-conductor GHG pollutants should not be exempt for 5 years. Aircraft and marine fuels, and municipal waste incinerators should not be excluded.

5. New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure: The bill clearly states that new fossil fuel infrastructure projects cannot be granted exemptions or EITE status. In addition, we should push for a companion bill to place a moratorium on all new fossil fuel infrastructure projects.

6. Investment Fund Requirements: The bill is very specific about how the moneys raised by the program should be invested.

a. Any revenue gained by utilities from selling unused allowance must go to strengthen existing utility-based weatherization, solarization and low-income-rebate programs.

b. Proceeds from vehicle fuel suppliers go to the Transportation Decarbonization Account (a sub-account of the Highway Trust Fund) that must be dedicated to projects that reduce GHG emissions and benefit impacted communities.

c. The majority of proceeds from Industry and other fuel suppliers go to the Climate Investment Fund that will focus on energy efficiency and energy conservation projects, transportation electrification, investments in natural and working lands to support GHG sequestration, development of clean energy infrastructure, and projects to increase the resilience of fish and wildlife ecosystems.

d. The rest of the proceeds from Industry and other fuel suppliers go to the Just Transition Fund to support economic diversification, job creation, job training and provide support and re-training for workers who need to transition into the clean energy economy.

e. However, the bill needs to enumerate specific allocations of the Climate Investment Fund (e.g. 50% to impacted communities, 10% to tribes, 20% to natural and working lands, and 20% statewide) and the Just Transition Fund.

7. Public Utility Commission (PUC): The bill specifies that the PUC is required to ensure utilities use proceeds from sale of allowances to reduce GHG emissions and provide bill assistance, weatherization, energy efficiency, transportation electrification and grid modernization. We believe the PUC should adopt, as a core part of its mission, supporting Oregon's transition to a clean energy economy.

8. Carbon Policy Office: This office, established by the bill, is expected to be combined into a new Oregon Climate Authority that will integrate those departments from DOE and DEQ needed to coordinate actions and ensure the GHG reduction goals are met. This new authority must have the necessary regulatory authority to ensure compliance with requirements set out in the bill.

9. Governance: The bill establishes a nine-member citizen advisory committee that has geographic and socioeconomic diversity. The bill needs to strengthen the requirements for racial diversity and representation by tribes. The bill requires that five-year reviews are conducted and reported to ensure accountability to the goals.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to share my testimony for you.

I am available for any questions you have for me.

With much gratitude.

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"Think Globally, Act Daily." - Brian Ettling