

Co-chairs Dembrow and Power and Members of the Committee,

Our names are Cathy and Roger Fantz. We are the owners of Trillium Forest Farm, in rural Clackamas County. We strongly support HB 2020, also known as Clean Energy Jobs Bill, which will put a cap and price on greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon and invest in solutions. We have seen the impacts of climate change on our farm in our drier, hotter summers and have concerns about greater fire danger (a large part of our farm is in forest land) and an increasing need to provide more shade and water for our food crops. For the past two years, poor air quality has been a significant, as well, limiting the time we can work outside. We can see Mt. Hood from our property and are very concerned about its rapidly melting glaciers. We worry about the impact this will have on our water table.

The Clean Energy Jobs bill provides funding for projects that reduce and sequester greenhouse gas emissions and promote adaptation and resilience in the face of climate change. As farmers, we could benefit from grant funds to adopt/maintain climate-friendly practices and possibly from selling offset credits to regulated parties. And of course, all Oregonians will benefit from a more stable climate.

Over 200 farms and other agriculture stakeholders in Oregon have signed on in support of the Clean Energy Jobs bill. We want to see strong climate policy and that recognize that Oregon agriculture can and should be part of the solution.

We are, quite frankly, tired of climate change deniers and their “alternative facts.” Our world is getting hotter and our weather patterns more unstable. The time to act is now. We urge the Oregon legislature to make addressing climate change a number one priority in our state on behalf of not only all Oregonians, but to the citizens of our entire planet..

Thank you for acknowledging and tackling this important, life-threatening problem. We applaud you for committing to finding a solution for the good of us all.

Sincerely,

Cathy and Roger Fantz

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