

Testimony Before the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

February 15th, 2019

Dear Committee Chairs and Committee Members -

My name is Rich Peppers, and I live in Portland, in Senator Dembrow's and Representative Smith-Warner's districts. In my two minutes, I'd like to simply say four things:

1. **Thank You** for taking on the climate issue so seriously with this bill. I appreciate your efforts to follow what science is telling us: that urgent action is needed - not just here in Oregon, but all over the world. If the bill is passed in the strongest possible form, Oregon could begin cleaning up its share of the GHG emissions problem, and try to do it in a way that counteracts historic societal inequities. We hope other states and organizations will be inspired to take on their own big steps forward. So, thanks, again, for your efforts on this bill..
2. **The Stakes Are High...**as I know you are fully aware. Of course I'm troubled by climate change, melting glaciers, increasing forest fire risk, and more. But, on a personal level, it's simply that I have a 24-year old daughter - a stand-in for all of the next generations around the world - to whom I feel I owe it to help to fix the world's climate our generation will be leaving behind.
3. **Strengthen, Then Pass It** to make it as effective as possible: To ensure the auction market sends a price signal that actually affects behavior and investments, I support and suggest **tightening the availability of free allowances**, and **reducing their "bankability"**; and I agree with those who want to have the cap cover all the major greenhouse gas emitters, i.e. **to severely limit or eliminate exemptions or exclusions from the cap**. I also support having a **quicker glide-path** for hitting the "20% of 1990 CO2 emissions levels" target, because the latest IPCC report warns we have less time to turn things around than we previously thought. I suggest 2030 is a good target date, given that it's right at the 12-year period the IPCC warns us about. Others will be detailing proposals for strengthening the bill's diversity of representation in its governance provisions; and other equity proposals, but while I agree with those, I'll save my time for my next point.

4. **Get All Public Entities Invested In Helping Out.** I've been a somewhat steady follower of the implementation process for the **Community Solar Program** the Oregon Legislature passed in 2016. I want to acknowledge HB 2020 mentions Community Solar among other programs and projects, in Section 31, subsection (2) when it discusses funding from the Climate Investment Fund. That's great - funding assistance will benefit most of the mentioned types of projects and is sorely needed. But, I want to encourage the Committee to take a further step, which is to direct all Oregon agencies and political subdivisions, to the extent you are able, to include in their missions to assist, where possible and within their jurisdiction, the **overarching goal of reducing greenhouse gases emitted in the State**, while balancing their traditional missions with this new one. Some already do this, and I realize the Carbon Policy Office created by this bill will already play a coordination and oversight role with several specific agencies, including DoE and the PUC, among others. But chances of success for programs such as Community Solar and others (mentioned in the bill or not), would be improved substantially if all entities with property or brownfields, or buildings and rooftops; and all those with zoning responsibilities; and all those with resources or technical expertise; and more; were giving some attention to how they could constructively lend a hand in our energy transition. **Many have talked about a WWII-type mobilization to meet the climate challenge.** This suggestion, if adopted and copied by other states, could move us closer in that direction.

5. Finally, as others have already commented, this bill does not address all areas of climate concern. **Clearly, passing this bill in the strongest possible form will be a hugely important step, but there will also be much more to do.**

Again - thank you for your work so far, and for what more is to come, and for listening to us all so patiently.