

TO: Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

FROM: Charlyn Ellis, Member, City of Corvallis Legislative Committee

DATE: February 18, 2019

SUBJECT: Clean Energy Jobs Bill/Oregon Climate Action Program (HB 2020)

Dear Senator Dembrow, Representative Power, Senator Bentz, and Representative Smith,:

Addressing climate change is critical for the future of our state and our community. HB 2020 will lead us on a path to creating a strong clean energy economy by putting a price on major greenhouse gas emissions sources, while funding clean energy innovation in communities and industries across the state.

The City of Corvallis Legislative Committee recommends **strengthening HB 2020 by adding language in two key areas: equity and governance.**

- **Investment Allocations (Equity)** – The 2018 version of the Clean Energy Jobs Bill included percentages to determine where investments will go, including 50% to benefit the communities that are experiencing the greatest impacts of climate change – primarily low-income individuals, rural communities, and communities of color. This percentage has been replaced in HB 2020 with the words “to the maximum extent feasible”. To protect Oregon’s most vulnerable communities, it is critical to either add percentages back into the bill or to add language that says “a majority of the funds” will go to these impacted communities. This element of the bill is centered in equity and must be strengthened with specific language to ensure that the allocations are legally binding.
- **Citizen Governance** – The 2018 bill included the establishment of a 21-person advisory committee composed of citizens from around the state. However, that language has been dropped from the current bill. We believe that a provision for statewide citizen engagement in governance of the program must be added to HB 2020 and that the governance structure must include representation from the most impacted communities.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our insights into HB 2020.