

As a rabbi, I am a spokesperson for a people that has been on this earth for 4000 years. My people, who makes up less than ½ of 1 percent of the earth's population, has watched whole empires rise and fall but we have endured. How is this amazing thing possible? Because we have learned that we must adapt. And that means having a dynamic relationship between maintaining our way of life and adapting to - and serving - the times in which we have lived.

When I read the written testimonies on this bill, my ear is attuned to very broad ethical questions. When I read concern by certain industries about the impact of a price on carbon or the impact that increasing fuel costs put on poor rural communities, for example, I start asking big ethical questions.

But - in 25 years of working with the climate change movement, I have only rarely heard people explicitly name the ethical problems we are addressing. So my hope is that as clergy, I can speak from a different place about the greatest ethical problem the human race has ever collectively faced.

In the testimonies I have read, I hear a concern for the greater good. On the surface, the arguments are about concerns for a particular industry or community; but beneath there is remarkable consistency in acknowledging the collective problem of climate change. The vast majority of us know that anthropogenic climate change is something that affects all of us; we know we are in the same boat. We also all know that, barring incredible technological innovation, we are not talking about avoiding devastating climate change. We all know that at this point, what we are really talking about is mitigating *and adapting to* climate change. We are way, way past the tipping point with regard to avoiding significant changes to our earth. Reducing carbon emissions is only one aspect of becoming adaptable and resilient.

There is no doubt that we have to radically reduce GHG emissions very quickly. That should not even be on the table as a discussion. The more pressing questions are: how do we strategically reduce those emissions? How will our communities adapt to significant changes in our environment and economies? How can we create resilient/adaptable communities?

And how do we do so *justly*? Using the ethical language of my tradition: how do we do this while simultaneously taking care of the most vulnerable? While fulfilling the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves?

When I read other testimonies, I hear acknowledgment of the fact that we must address carbon emissions. Even those who are concerned about the possible regressive nature of putting a price on carbon acknowledge that we must, nevertheless, reduce emissions drastically.

But I do not hear people applying their concern for the greater good to the issue of resilience/adaptability.

And so my responsibility as clergy is to press the issue. We know that our world is already changing. And we know in our *kishkes*, in our guts, that we too must change. We know we can either change deliberately or have change thrust upon us.

Our industries, crops, fuel sources, and economy are *all going to change*. Because the climate is already changing, and it is going to keep changing – welcome to earth, we must be thinking about how to be adaptable and resilient.

We know that today's industries may not be here in 50 years. We know that our particular way of life, as it is right now, may not be here in 50 years. And I think all of us know that some things are going to have to give in and change order for our children's children to thrive, in Oregon, in 50 years.

It is for the sake of the *greater* good that we must change. If we are being honest, we will have to admit that some communities and some businesses will be affected by putting a price on carbon. But we don't have an ethical choice. There has to be a price on carbon because it is so very, very costly.

If we enter into this trying to anticipate the changes, and with the mindset that we are in this together, I am confident in our ability to be innovative and adapt.

In conclusion, I support HB 2020. We must put a price on carbon. I encourage policy makers to lead with courage and humility, and to work together in a spirit of mutual commitment. All of your constituents need you to lead by example, coming together to address radical reduction in Oregon's carbon emissions.