

Date: February 18, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

From: James Sundell, Salem, Oregon

Re: Support for: Legislation to Reduce Carbon Emissions and Create Jobs

Oregon should lead the way in bolstering both the environment and the economy. Everyone in this room, in this state and in the world today depends on reliable sources of energy for our lives and everything we do as global citizens. The earth has a limited supply of fossil fuels. These fossil fuels are being consumed at higher rates than ever before. The result of our huge appetite for fossil fuels is a global crisis of carbon pollution. This carbon pollution is contributing to climate change in a negative way.

Bold collective action is needed now. You, as elected legislators have the responsibility to act decisively. Yes, we need broad systemic change to slow global warning. We need world leadership and leadership here in Oregon to do our part to reduce carbon emissions and create clean energy jobs. SB 1507 and HB 4001 provided 10 years' worth of efforts to fine-tune legislation yet did not receive a floor vote. We must move forward.

The concepts of this legislation are not new. Every province in Canada has a price on climate pollution by the end of 2018. China will launch its national cap-and-trade system in 2019. California's cap-and-trade program has been in place since 2012. Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont are all part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a program to cap and reduce emission from the power sector in place since 2009.

The time is right to move forward in Oregon. You, as elected legislators have a responsibility to do what is right for the citizens of this great state. Doing nothing is not an option. The cost of doing nothing far outweighs the costs of moving forward toward a carbon free environment. Do not let perfect be the enemy of the good!