

February 15, 2019

TO: Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction, Salem, Oregon 97301

FROM: Inga Fisher Williams  
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Sen. Dembrow, Rep, Powers, Members of the Committee,

Our thanks to you for the many hours and diligent work to bring this bill in a long deliberation to where it is today. The Clean Energy Jobs Bill (HB 2020) is an important FIRST step to address our climate crisis. It is a monumental achievement, a cause to celebrate that we are here to discuss a bill to cap carbon emissions in Oregon and a start, so we hope, toward future necessary de-carbonization legislation.

While we applaud your efforts on this bill, we have serious concerns with some of its goals. As we witness the effects of climate change manifest faster than expected and in more severe forms, this is not the time for cautious goals. Weak provisions that seek political consensus seem misplaced. We have to live with the choices you make.

**For me personally, the impact of climate change is an inconvenience; for millennials and younger generations, it is existential. We cannot lose sight of our obligation to those who will follow us.**

We urge strengthening this bill in the following way:

- An aggressive cap of **20% reduction by 2025 and 55% by 2035 and 100% by 2050**
- A tight limit on **Allowances that are regularly reviewed, needs-based and phased out by 2030**
- A fair measure where **all major polluters are subject to caps: No exemptions, No exclusions**
- A realistic method for **minimizing any built-in protections for industries and utilities**
- A clear and specific explanation of **equity provisions for how the funds are to be spent**

**In concluding here I want to read to you what a LETTER FROM YOUR GRAND CHILDREN might say . . . .**

*“How could you not have known? What more evidence did you need that your lives, your comfortable lives would do so much damage to ours?*

*Did you think you could wage war against nations without waging war against people and against the earth?*

*Didn't you wonder what we would drink once you had poisoned the aquifer? Didn't you wonder what we would breathe, once you had poisoned the air? Did you stop to ask how we would be safe in a world poisoned by war?*

*Did you think it all belonged to you - this beautiful earth?*

*You, who loved your children, did you think we could live without clean air and healthy cities? You, who loved the earth, did you think we could live without birdsong and swaying trees?*

*And, if you knew, how could you not care? What could matter more to you than your children, and their babies?*

*How could a parent destroy what is life-giving and astonishing in her child's world?*

*And, if you knew and if you cared, how could you not act?*

*And, now, what would you have us do? “*

*By Kathleen Dean Moore  
the pine island paradox*