

February 22, 2019

Dear Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed legislation in House Bill 2020, which would establish a Carbon Policy Office and lead to adoption of the Oregon Climate Action Program by rule.

Please note: I work in the Materials Management Program at the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. I am not offering these comments as an employee of DEQ or speaking on behalf of the agency. I am offering these comments as an Oregon resident concerned about climate change and its effects on our state and the world. However, because of my current work at DEQ, I perhaps have different insight of the connection between climate change and actions to impede its devastating consequences.

DEQ's Materials Management Program has evolved to include greenhouse gas emissions in its regulatory direction. We are not only looking at the amount of items recycled or thrown away, but at the material's carbon footprint. Studies on materials include significant input from DEQ's Air Quality staff working on greenhouse gas emissions. This collaboration between programs at DEQ has been vital to Materials Management's [2050 Vision](#).

If you need more information on how GHG emissions can play a role in waste management, see these websites:

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/mm/production/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.drawdown.org/solutions/materials>

I support the foundation of the proposed climate action agenda set forth in HB 2020. However, I oppose two sections of the bill. Sections 46 and 47 would transfer DEQ's greenhouse gas inventory records, duties, and employees to the proposed new agency (Carbon Policy Office) leading the climate action program. Moving the staff from DEQ would create significant inefficiencies in several areas, including collaboration with Materials Management staff leading the way towards reducing our greenhouse gas emissions related to waste. I believe transferring the greenhouse gas and carbon policy staff from DEQ to a new agency is detrimental to the climate action program. DEQ is already a leader in providing positive environmental outcomes for Oregon. Taking from DEQ the positions leading our next environmental challenge is not practical, efficient, or sensible.

DEQ can be the agency to help achieve the goals of the Climate Action Program, in collaboration with the air, land, and water quality programs already striving to protect our environment and human health in Oregon. Please consider amending HB 2020 to remove Sections 46 and 47 to maintain DEQ's staff and collaboration on this important initiative to address climate change.

Thank you,
Cathy Brown
Eugene, Oregon