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February 22, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

ATTN: Co-Chairs Dembrow and Power

Re: Written testimony HB 2020

Co-chairs Dembrow and Power and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stacy Kraker and I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Organic Coalition, statewide trade support group, representing businesses, farmers and individuals from across the state.

I'm writing to ask you to support HB 2020, also known as Clean Energy Jobs, which will put a cap and price on greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon and invest in solutions. Our rural communities are observing dramatic changes in the climate. Oregon farmers are dealing with the effects of climate change right now. Climate change exposes farms and crops to smoke, extreme and unpredictable temperatures, droughts and floods. In Southern Oregon last summer 6 weeks of smoke meant low sales at the farmers market, threatening a number of farms in the Rogue Valley. Farmworkers are working in unsafe conditions including smoke and extreme heat. Passing Clean Energy Jobs will help stabilize the climate farms depend on and incentivize climate-friendly practices. Oregon's Proposed Cap & Invest Policy offers a powerful framework for Oregon's agriculture community to be a part of the solution by providing grant funds and/or offset credits for these climate-friendly practices. Oregon agriculture supports strong climate policy and stands as an example of the triple bottom line opportunity that a clean energy business approach can provide, protecting people and planet, while creating economic return and jobs.

The Clean Energy Jobs bill provides funding for projects that reduce and sequester greenhouse gas emissions and promote adaptation and resilience in the face of climate change. Farmers may benefit from grant funds to adopt/maintain climate-friendly practices and possibly also from selling offset credits to regulated parties.

And of course, farmers will benefit from a more stable climate. Over 200 farms and other agriculture stakeholders in Oregon have signed on in support of the Clean Energy Jobs bill. We want to see strong climate policy and that recognizes that Oregon agriculture can and should be part of the solution.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy Kraker".

Stacy Kraker  
President, Oregon Organic Coalition, Eugene, Oregon

