

Dear Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

Thank you so much for your patience with the democratic process, as demonstrated today at the Springfield City Hall meeting. I came intending to testify, but seeing the overflow of speakers, decided I'd rather go home and watch the testimony live, so I could better understand all arguments. I am in favor of HB 2020, and in fact am very excited that solutions to Oregon's economic problems (including underemployment, lack of fair corporate taxation and resulting poverty) and solutions to climate change are paired so daringly in this bill. Although I sympathized with some of those speaking against the bill, particularly the farmer who could not conceive how he could continue his work, as the non-fossil fuel equipment he'd need has not yet been invented. But it will be. Without our immediate efforts to cap emissions, far worse will befall him and all farmers and paper producers and enterprising business owners, not to mention the rest of us.

I believe this crisis will push us to more inventive heights, and thereby help to share the wealth of our state without trashing our environment. I also believe we all will be sacrificing some of our familiar ways of life and traditional comforts. It makes me scared and sad. It is your difficult job to lead and inspire us to take on these burdens in hopes of promising yet unproven results. Protecting the status quo will not serve us now. I think Oregon can forge ahead, admitting the severity of our worldwide situation, and serving as a model for other states. I hope you will look for advice and ideas to small countries like Costa Rico, which is doing remarkable work to adjust to new reduced Greenhouse gas emissions standards. Please don't water down the bill with exceptions and permanent allowances to carbon and methane emitters. I know you will continue to refine the bill after passage, to make 2020 the most powerful and fair tool in our state's arsenal.

Thanks for your work.

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