

Dear Oregon lawmakers:

It is vitally important that Oregon adopt strong measures to cope with climate change now. We're already seeing the effects of it in the series of severe fire seasons in four out of the past five years here in southern Oregon, and steadily warming temperatures that are having an impact on livelihoods in our area. Tourism and outdoor recreation businesses took a big hit during last year's fire season, not to mention the health effects endured by local residents from the summer-long smoke.

HB 2020 is a good start in addressing the climate crisis, but even it as written doesn't go far enough for the future we're facing. I would urge you to strengthen the bill to foster the conversion to safer energy sources than oil, coal, or natural gas sooner rather than later, particularly for large, polluting industries.

I know that some lawmakers and corporate interests are saying the bill will raise fuel costs, but the alternative of a warming planet leaves us no choice. As an Oregon citizen I am willing to pay higher fuel fees for the sake of our common welfare. Do not allow moneyed, corporate interests to undermine your commitment to achieving this goal. The lives of our immediate descendants, and those still to come depend on it.

Sincerely,
Steve Dieffenbacher
Medford, Oregon