

Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

I would like to thank the committee members for coming to Medford to hear from the people of Southern Oregon about their opinions and concerns regarding HB 2020. I attended the initial portion of the hearing and want to say how sorry I am for the rude behavior of much of the audience in their boisterous disrespect for your repeated requests to not cheer, clap or boo. In lieu of requesting to speak at the hearing, I offer the following:

I recognize that HB 2020, like most legislation, must be a compromise and cannot address all issues to make everyone happy. But I urge you not to be swayed by those who say that it is not worth doing because Oregon's action will only have a small effect and that it will cost too much.

We can no longer wait for a "silver bullet" to solve all of the world's greenhouse gas problems. It does not exist and we are rapidly running out of time. We must take every action that we can to limit and reverse the growth in the release of greenhouse gases that are changing our climate so rapidly. Hopefully your leadership will encourage others to take similar actions. I also urge that you reconsider the HB2020 energy industry exceptions to strengthen the bill further.

I recognize the cost fears of those on low and fixed incomes. It is not unreasonable to require that the rules developed as a result of HB2020 be structured to use some of the funds collected from the emitters to offset the additional expenses of those on low and fixed incomes.

I urge you to strengthen and pass HB2020.