

In Support of HB2020

Ben Scott
Jackson County resident

I wanted to first thank the entire Legislative Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction, for making the trip down to S. OR. It is appreciated that you take the time to hear the concerns of those of us living here.

I attended the public testimony at the Medford hearing this morning, but my turn to speak did not come about during the time I had available. My written testimony then is here.

A key point I wanted to make is about a Clean Energy Jobs Bill. I am a blue collar worker, living in a rural county.

During the last big recession, I was in construction and concerned about my job prospects. With smart public funding (i.e., ARRA signed in 2009), I was a direct beneficiary of the many jobs created in the energy efficiency industry here in Oregon.

I was able to transition from my construction business into full time work for organizations like Energy Trust of Oregon and Clean Energy Works Oregon. Over 10 years later I am still gainfully employed in work involving conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy. I am proof that clean energy jobs can be brought to S. OR and provide good paying and lasting jobs. Since that last recession, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects have been a bright area for employment and for the environment.

In addition to creating good jobs, clean energy projects are some of the more immediate things we can do to reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change. If the negative effects of climate change can't move us to support this bill, what will? You would think, that with what we now know and can expect of climate change right here in SW Oregon, that most new jobs created would somehow relate to conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy, to the benefit of all Oregonians.

HB2020 could be further strengthened, to make certain it contains the most recent science based information. The bill should also ensure that the heaviest polluters should be responsible for paying a greater share. There should not be any exemptions, offsets, or other “outs” for any entity and very limited free allowances. We need to move away from fossil fuels and see that there is no new expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure. We don't need it and it would be a step backwards.

In closing, I'm for HB2020. Now more than ever, it is time to move this forward to ensure the best future possible for all of Oregon. If we continue down the same road of fossil fuel use, we will go down as the generation of fossil fools!

Sincerely,
Ben Scott
Ashland, OR