

RE HB 2020, "Relating to greenhouse gas emissions; declaring an emergency." Testimony, Al LePage, Eugene, OR

"Taken as a whole, the range of published evidence indicates that the net damage costs of climate change are likely to be significant and to increase over time."

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



Image Source: U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences website

A BUCKET OF WATER . . . is filled with individual drops, and . . . **EACH DROP** matters. The **EARTH IS OUR BUCKET**, and **OREGON'S DROP** in the bucket **MATTERS**, too. Therefore, the argument that Oregon's effort won't put a dent in global carbon emissions, is not only flawed, but also misses the point. This bill's strength is not just about addressing carbon emissions. It's not just about averting "bad stuff," the potential impacts of climate change. It's about the "good stuff," about Oregon moving towards a sustainable future for both people and wildlife. It's not just about avoiding a world we don't want, **IT'S ABOUT CREATING THE WORLD WE NEED** to survive and thrive.

THERE'S A SPINTLER IN MY FINGER . . . and it's getting infected. I can leave it, let the infection spread, and may need to eventually have my hand or arm amputated to save my life. Or . . . I can remove it, clean and bandage it. It may hurt, but I've got to do it. **CARBON IS THE SPINTLER IN ALL OUR HANDS**, and it **HAS TO BE REMOVED!** And it could apparently "hurt" economically . . . to some extent, so provide some pain relief! Given the **ECONOMIC BENEFITS** that will apparently will happen, **ADDRESS ANY SIGNIFICANT ISSUES** in crafting the final legislation! **BUT** . . . be sure to be "good doctors," and "**DO NO HARM,**" **TO** the overall **GOAL OF DECREASING CARBON** emissions. This way, the bill can be strengthened to include everyone.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT* . . . agriculture, timber, and technology are major sectors of Oregon's economy, and some have expressed relatively short-term economic concerns. But **THINK OF THE LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES** of . . . **NOT ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE NOW MEANS A FUTURE WORLD**, where farmers will struggle WITH DECREASING CROP PRODUCTIVITY, where **TREE GROWTH SUFFERS** negatively impacting timber corporations and communities, and where **IMPACTS TO WATER, ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE COULD EFFECT NOT ONLY TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES, BUT** ultimately **EVERYONE!** **CLIMATE CHANGE WILL**, most likely already is, **NEGATIVELY IMPACT CROPS, TREES, AND LIFE FOR EVERYONE!** **NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! PASS HB 2020 NOW!**

**US Global Change Research Program, 2018: Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II / Full report available online at: nca2018.globalchange.gov*