

Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

My name is Penelope Suess, and I live in Port Orford -- one of the most beautiful coastal communities in the state. Currently, at least. I am concerned that it STAY beautiful, and that we continue to enjoy relatively clean air, clean beaches, and clean rivers. It is vital for rural Oregon that the effects of climate change be reduced! Our local economic health depends on it, because we depend on thriving fishing, tourism, and farming businesses. All of these, and more, will suffer from such impacts as wildfire, ocean acidification, and air pollution as a result of transportation and energy production. I moved from the Los Angeles area a few years ago in large part because I wanted to escape such problems and enjoy my retirement in a less problematic place.

I urge you to support H.B. 2020! It is not the time to postpone action in hopes that a "better" bill can be crafted! I believe what climate scientists say: there is no time to lose, because we are perilously close to a tipping point, beyond which we will not be able to avert the gravest consequences of rising temperatures. Who would want to live in that world? Who will be ABLE to live in that world?

Unfortunately, my Representative, David Brock Smith, who is co-vice chair of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction, has publicly said that he believes the impact on global carbon if Oregon were to reduce its emissions to ZERO would be "minuscule" and "imperceptible." But for the majority of Oregonians, including many of his constituents, his credibility on this is zero. He misses the point completely -- we all need to do our part. It's time to opt in, not cop out! We see through his disingenuous "sky is falling" predictions about tax pass-throughs that will devastate working families. What WILL hurt us is continuing to allow polluters to run rampant and spoil our very special state.

Oregon should be a leader in addressing climate change, not a foot-dragger. Please do not allow amendments and exemptions to weaken H.B. 2020! And please support a strong transition to a clean energy economy through wise investment -- especially in rural Oregon, where it is desperately needed.

Again, I urge you to support H.B 2020!

Sincerely,

Penelope Suess

Port Orford, OR 97465