

Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

My name is Sarah Settimo, I am a student at Oregon State University and a fellow with Our Climate, a nonprofit focused on advocating for a science based, equitable price on pollution.

In my short lifetime, I have already seen the changes in my environment due to climate change. I grew up in Ashland, Oregon where wildfires have become an unfortunate expectation every summer. In 2010, I was evacuated from my home because of a wildfire, which was one of the most terrifying moments of my childhood. Unfortunately, wildfires were already a reality of my life when we got evacuated. While most children spend their summers outside playing, I spent many of my summers inside because of smoke. With the decrease in rain due to climate change, wildfires rip through the valley, which leads to toxic levels of smoke sitting in the air. It feels like living in a fishbowl that hasn't been cleaned in months, which is honestly disgusting.

As an Oregonian passionate about our state's beautiful forests and hoping to one day live in my hometown again, I am thrilled to see Oregon's legislature putting forward a solution. But I believe if we are going to finally tackle this issue, we need to do it right. That's why I'm asking for a few changes to strengthen this policy to ensure that it is as strong as possible to protect my future and generations to follow. Myself and the rest of our network of students across the state ask that:

1. The cap be lowered to ensure that greenhouse gas emissions from covered entities go to 0 by 2050. It is important that we set this goal now as opposed to a later date to ensure that it is implemented before it is too late.
2. Secondly, there must be a specific percentage of investments in impacted communities, as well as a more transparent process that will tie reduction of pollution directly to the use of funds in communities most affected by pollution. It is extremely important that this be an equitable bill, which gives back to those communities most affected by climate change.

When I voted for my state representatives, I voted for the strongest climate champions because climate change is the largest challenge facing my generation. But I believe climate change is a challenge, not an impossible obstacle. However, in order for it to be a challenge and not an impossible obstacle, we must strengthen this bill.

I look forward to celebrating the passing of this bill. Thank you for your time.