

Co-Chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Power, and members of the Committee: my name is Josh Berger and I'm a resident of Sisters, Oregon.

I have lived in Oregon for 44 years. I am proud to be an Oregonian. I love the state. I have traveled it extensively and enjoy spending time in all corners from Astoria to the Alvord Desert. One of the things that makes me proud is how Oregon has been a leader on innovative environmental solutions. The Bottle Bill. The Beach Bill. These bold acts in their times have become part of the Oregon Way—and they show us the way now.

The Clean Energy Jobs Bill (H.B. 2020) is an opportunity to meet the greatest challenge of our times with bold policy. I urge you to pass the strongest possible version of House Bill 2020.

Global warming and climate change are a global issue — and they will impact every region of the planet and every living being on the planet. 99% of the earth's scientists agree that global warming is real and it is caused by human activity. Two things need to happen simultaneously:

1. We must reduce and work to eliminate carbon emissions, transitioning to a clean energy future
2. We must mitigate and prepare for the impacts of the impending climate crisis

Here in Oregon we need to do our part. No other policy this session will do more to reduce climate pollution in Oregon and tackle humanity's greatest problem. It's taken years of work to get here and it is past time for bold action. Our state must lead the way in meeting this challenge for the rest of the nation.

The cap-and-invest system set up by Clean Energy Jobs not only guarantees harmful pollution will be reduced, but it will also build up our economy and communities at the same time.

From wildfires to water shortages, we've already begun to live with the effects of climate change in Oregon. These last few years have been a wake-up call.

I ask you to pass a strong bill with a meaningful cap to reduce emissions as quickly as scientists say we must. The legislation should include targets to reduce GHG emissions by 20% by 2025, at least 55% by 2035 and 100% by 2050.

- Utilities should not be given freely assigned allowances, and there should be no more than 25% free allowances for emissions-intensive, trade-exposed industries (EITEs). Any accommodation for EITEs should support in-state production, be needs-based only, be regularly re-evaluated, and be phased out altogether by 2030.
- Offsets should be limited to Oregon-only projects, with a limit of 2%. The program must ensure that offset benefits accrue to Oregon communities, do not contribute to pollution “hotspots” in other states, and are only given for emissions reductions that would not have happened in the absence of the offset program.
- Hold all major polluters accountable with a price on greenhouse gases. Don’t allow for exemptions for any polluting industries, including aviation, marine, and railroad fuels, as well as fluorinated gases and solid waste incinerators.
- Any attempt to exempt the proposed Jordan Cove LNG terminal from coverage in the legislation must absolutely be denied.

Those who are hit first and worst by climate change should be a priority for investment, to provide job opportunities and benefit communities. This means prioritizing low-income, rural, communities of color and Oregon Tribes for investments, jobs, and training.

Finally, we need decision-making structures that are transparent, equitable, flexible, and accountable. All advisory and oversight committees should have an over-representation of historically underrepresented communities; the Environmental Justice Task Force, equity groups, and Sovereign Nation representatives must play significant and meaningful roles.

I ask you to champion bold climate action with a strong HB 2020. Please pass this bill this session for the future of Oregon and a healthy planet.

With best regards

Josh Berger

Sisters, Oregon