

I am writing today to urge you to support Oregon's HB2020 bill. The time is running out now for climate change and it is absolutely necessary to do everything we can to slash and cut carbon emissions now. Some say this bill may not do enough, or that it is too small to make a difference, but how can that be? To give up hope is the wrong answer. Please support this measure to make Oregon a climate leader - to get the momentum going to make real change in the dangers that climate change poses to us and our future generations.

I have lived in Oregon since 1992, nearly half of my life. I remember the Summers of the 1990's here in Portland as the most perfect weather - often cloudy in the morning and beautifully sunny in the afternoons. The occasional heat wave, maybe one or two each summer, brought temperatures that were in the low 90 degrees temperature range. I only once remember smoke coming into the Portland area, and it was not even comparable to what we have witnessed in the last two summers. I know that the smoke blows in from way beyond our state's boundaries but this is one of the most tangible climate difference I have witnessed in the past 25 plus years.

As nasty as the hot smokey weather and the destruction of beautiful areas from wildfires are, I am motivated to write by far more than how I experience weather changes. I look around at the college students I teach, and the kids of my siblings and friends - and I worry for the future they are inheriting. On a larger scale, I worry for the animals and plants and the slow pace of adaptation to all of this change. Most of all, I worry that it is getting to be too late and we won't make it as a species. I am scared.

Inaction is not acceptable. Please support HB2020 and get Oregon on the right track to be a climate change leader.  
Thank you,

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