

Dear Co-chairs Dembrow and Power and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

My name is Matt Clark and I live in Portland. I grew up here.

From 2007 to 2014, I was the Executive Director of Johnson Creek Watershed Council in SE Portland. My wife, our boys and I then moved to Ecuador to work for an international conservation non-profit, dedicated to protecting tropical forests to conserve biodiversity and mitigate climate change.

When my family arrived back in Portland at the end of August 2018, after four years away, we were astonished by the smoke in the city. I'd never seen anything like the haze. It burned my eyes. I read we and Seattle had the worst air quality in the world this summer, above Mumbai and Beijing. All due to wildfires exacerbated by climate change.

It's very important to me that you pass HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs bill. There are a number of reasons I support it, economic and ecological.

1. An independent economic study suggests it will create more than 50,000 jobs.
2. The declining cap guarantees a reduction of around 2 million metric tons of pollution every year, the equivalent of taking 425,000 cars off the road.
3. Major investment will go toward opportunities for low-income and rural communities, tribes, communities of color, and for training workers in Oregon.

The most important reasons I support HB 2020 are personal. I hate seeing my beautiful state enveloped in smoke, which I fear is becoming the new summer norm. I've dedicated my professional life to environmental conservation and I hate to think the gains we've made restoring Johnson Creek for returning salmon could be wiped out by climate change.

We are at a crisis point as a planet. If we don't act now to address climate change, we will regret it for the rest of our lives. And our children and our children's children will wonder why we were so short-sighted. This is a chance to show our mettle as Oregonians. Let's do so.

Thank you,  
Matthew R. Clark  
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