

In Support of House Bill 2020:

## **Oregon needs to have a plan to address global warming**

The buildup of carbon dioxide and other global warming gases in the atmosphere is steadily increasing. The effects of global warming are causing great damage from more severe storms to forest fires intensified by the changing climate. Our fisheries and agricultural communities are being adversely affected by global warming and these effects will continue to worsen until serious efforts are made that reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.

As the atmosphere warms the atmosphere holds more water. Bigger fronts are needed to release the water from the atmosphere. Therefore, we experience fewer rain events but when it rains, the amounts are significantly higher with more severe consequences. The warmer temperatures melt the snow pack earlier in the year and leads to shortages of water for irrigation later in the year when it is needed.

Of major concern is the release of methane gas from the permafrost of Alaska and Siberia. As global warming melts the permafrost, more methane gas is released into the atmosphere. Methane is about 20 time worse than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas. As some point, the amount of methane released by global warming will outpace the effects of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and when this happens, there will be no stopping the worse consequences of global warming. That is why is it so important to act now before runaway global warming occurs.

House bill 2020 establishes the fundamental structure that is needed for Oregon to address global warming. It adds a cost to dumping greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere and uses some of these funds to mitigate the effects of global warming.

The legislation also incentivizes those who make efforts to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases. This will encourage new enterprises and give Oregon an advantage as the world starts to address global warming.

Oregon has waited a long time to put together a solid global warming action plan and needs to act now to reduce the more drastic effects of global warming in the future. As Oregonians we want to preserve our way of life. Only by addressing the consequences of global warming and reducing the future impacts of global warming can we hope to keep Oregon as a diverse livable state.

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