

To the Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

First and foremost, I want to thank each and every one of you for your commitment and dedication in legislatively acknowledging and tackling climate change. If you can stay the course and actually move this bill forward into law, it will be groundbreaking legislation that will be the first step toward a brighter future for our children and our planet.

It is paramount that acknowledging and recognizing human-caused climate change becomes a top priority for us all. Once that happens – truly happens – all the details can be fine tuned and worked out. Change is always hard, but change creates new and positive opportunities for innovation, improvement and advancement. Those who want to cling to current practices that are spewing harmful carbon into our atmosphere at alarming rates for the sake of the keeping the status quo are doing so because they fear change, even if that change will ultimately result in a sustainable future for their children and their children's children.

I see your efforts as casting light on our society's addiction to fossil fuel. The long-term costs of this addiction to our health and well being are staggering, yet like addicts everywhere, many desperately fear we will lose the comfort that our petroleum-based lifestyle currently gives us. The science is there. House Bill 2020 is a very real wake up call to say we cannot continue our harmful business-as-usual, head-in-the-sand manufacturing processes. Instead, we must now move forward to actively promote and encourage ways to create and support environmentally-friendly energy production and industry.

HB2020 is a win-win for our state, and Oregon is not alone. This phenomenal push toward clean energy production is happening all over the world. In 1982 the Scottish government issued a mandate to generate 100 percent of its electricity with renewable resources by 2020. The European Union aims for 20 percent by 2020. Chile's goal is 10 percent by 2024. California beat its 2020 emissions target four years early.

The technology is there – it just needs to be actively supported and promoted. In the end, clean and renewable energy will benefit us all. Rest assured that, if you persevere in creating this new and powerful legislation on behalf of the citizens of Oregon, history will look kindly upon you.

Sincerely,

Cathy Fantz
Eagle Creek, Oregon