

Distinguished members of the Joint committee on Carbon Reduction,

For the record, my name is Gloria Koenig, Salem, Oregon and I want to submit my testimony in support for the Clean Energy Jobs Bill.

I am a native Oregonian, I moved away for college/career and have recently returned to be near family. When I left, Tom McCall was governor, the bottle bill and beach access bills were being implemented. The issue of climate change (it was called global warming then) was beginning to be in the news. I took for granted that Oregonians would protect this beautiful state and be leaders in the issue of climate change.

I'm writing because after living elsewhere and now returning, I find to my dismay that I can no longer "just vote". I ride a bike (electric) 5 days/week and breathe the exhaust fumes from the increased traffic. The year we moved here, I breathed the smoke from the wildfires that were close by, in the Jefferson Wilderness and can only imagine the poor air quality for local communities. Last summer, my husband and I were aghast that the water from Detroit lake was unfit to drink for vulnerable populations (fortunately our dog was the only vulnerable one) because of toxic algae blooms from deforestation, inadequate septic systems made worse by rising temperatures.

I believe the Clean Energy Jobs bill is an excellent start toward the adaptation/mitigation steps that must be taken. I would like to be able to tell my grand nieces and nephew, with a straight face, that we did something. Time is running out. The longer we wait, the harder it will be to survive. Oregon will never be the same. Anthropogenic climate change is here, now. By weakening or worse, not passing HB2020, climate disruption will become more severe, harder to address and the results less satisfying.

I've watched a lot of the testimony via the Oregon Legislature website. I applaud your thoroughness and transparency. I've cringed at the behavior of some of my fellow Oregonians. I've written my own legislative representatives in favor of this bill. I just want to thank you for all your hard work.

Respectfully,
Gloria Koenig