

Thank you Co-chairs Dembrow and Power and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction for allowing my voice to be heard today.

My name is Michael West. I am a resident and educator in Hood River, as well as a father of two young children.

I write this testimony to stress the importance of passing House Bill 2020. Many people today will likely talk about the benefits that would be gained by passing the bill, mentioning both the increase in employment and the positive impact on the environment. I would like to focus on the negative impacts of not passing such a bill. It is clear that a failure to act on the looming disaster that is climate change would have enormous implications on our economy and all of the public institutions, private businesses and individuals that depend on a robust market. From wild fires to clean water districts for both irrigation and human consumption to healthy fisheries, the list goes on and on.

Please consider a yes vote on House Bill 2020. Passing this bill will help to insure a healthy, prosperous, productive Oregon for years to come.

Thank you.

Michael West