

Submitted on behalf of Tera Hurst, Executive Director, Renew Oregon--

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

Imagine your home or apartment building with new solar panels slashing your electric bill to next to nothing. Your next car is electric and you charge it up at the new charging stations at work, much cheaper than a gas fill-up. Your heating bill is lower thanks to new windows and insulation. Now imagine it's paid for by large polluters.

Oregonians are on the cusp of a breakthrough. Our state can retake its place among technology and environmental leaders. Oregon has the skilled workforce and resources to supercharge our economy and create good-paying jobs while also protecting our children from the greatest crisis of our time -- a dangerously changing climate.

It's time for Oregon to transition from polluting energy to a clean energy economy. We can reduce millions of tons of climate pollution, which causes global warming. We can move our economy to money-saving, zero-emission forms of energy like wind and solar -- which we generate close to home -- to run our cars and trucks; heating and lights; our small gadgets and our big industries.

Over the next 30 years, we can transform Oregon to a cutting-edge, growing economy with [over 50,000 new family-supporting jobs](#) all across the state. All of this is within reach if our legislature delivers on its promise to pass the Clean Energy Jobs bill this year.

We can't afford to wait. Climate change is harming Oregon communities today. This summer my pregnant friend couldn't drink the water in Salem, her hometown, because of the [toxic algae brought on by a heatwave and drought](#). In Eastern Oregon, the town of Prairie City literally ran out of water and had to truck it in from John Day.

These climate impacts rob state and local budgets. [90-percent of Oregon is in drought already](#) and it's only February. For months out of the year, our state is consumed by wildfire, covered in smoke. Our fish and crops are dying from increased heat and lack of water. Unless we take action, it's estimated climate change will cost the average Oregon family [\\$1,930 per year by 2020 and \\$2,435 per year by 2040](#).

The [Clean Energy Jobs](#) bill will help reduce climate pollution and fund clean energy solutions. It will place a cap and price on climate pollution from about 100 large industrial polluters and oil companies. The cap will get lower and lower every year, guaranteeing less pollution over time.

Clean Energy Jobs funds will be invested in communities across the state, putting Oregonians to work by making clean power like solar more available and affordable, upgrading homes and businesses to use energy more efficiently and save people money, and building affordable housing near transit or employment centers. Analysis shows within 9 years Oregonians could save at least \$2 billion in health care costs annually by reducing pollution.

Big Oil and polluting industries will not accept this bill quietly. They're pumping out tired attacks on clean energy in Oregon, predicting economic doom as they did in other states who have adopted this approach. The truth is, 10 states have similar laws and all of them have growing economies, falling emissions, and thousands of new clean energy jobs. Time after time, big oil's dire predictions have failed to come true - and shifting from pollution to

clean energy has been good for Americans - even if it isn't good for the oil industry's profit margin.

We can't afford to believe their fear-mongering. By the time my 12-year-old son is my age there's two worlds he could live in. He's too young to make a choice, so it's our responsibility to choose wisely for his future. We can reject a world too hot to live in with air too polluted to breathe. We can reject toxic water and summers filled with fire. Instead, by choosing the Clean Energy Job bill, we can choose a future where we reduce climate change, clean our air, create good jobs, and lead the way Oregon always has - showing the rest of the country the path to a strong economy and a healthy environment.

Tera Hurst is the Executive Director of Renew Oregon, a statewide coalition of businesses and workers, health advocates and parents, farmers and ranchers, environmentalists and Tribes, communities of color and faith leaders dedicated to transitioning Oregon to a clean energy economy. She can be reached at info@reneworegon.org.