

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

My name is Kirsten Meneghello and I live in SW Portland (OR 97225). It is very important that you pass HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs bill. I am a political moderate and often find myself balancing environmental priorities and business realities. This legislation would be good for our economy — because hundreds of millions of dollars per year in proceeds will be reinvested in clean energy solutions and putting Oregonians to work. This bill will also be effective at reducing emissions: a declining cap guarantees a reduction of around 2 million metric tons of pollution every year. We don't have to choose between economic growth and a healthy climate — we can have both. We can look at the ten states that have already established successful cap-and-invest programs. After years of experience, all of them have: growing economies, falling CO2 emissions, stable energy prices, and thousands of jobs created.

After multiple years of devastating wildfire seasons and low snow pack (both directly/indirectly related to a changing climate), the time to act is now! We cannot keep waiting for the "perfect" carbon emissions solution. It doesn't exist. With this bill, in tandem with the other steps that local governments, citizens, and businesses are taking to reduce carbon emissions, we will be successful at addressing this important and timely issue.

Thank you for doing the right thing for Oregonians and our state,
Kirsten Meneghello
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