

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

my name is Marco Elliott, I am a retired public high school teacher, husband and parent of two children. I live in Eugene with my wife.

I am very much in favor of HB 2020 and have been in support of it for the last 4 years.

I believe it will stimulate the Oregon economy in a sustainable and non harmful way for the biosphere.

We have a choice at this crucial crossroads in time. We can continue on the old fossil fuel track until we run out of them and drive so much carbon in the atmosphere that we will end up with a dangerously unlivable planet by the end of mid century. Or we can act with wisdom, a sense of restraint and a strong will to adapt to our current predicament. In either case we will face difficulties and hardships. The first choice will lead to increasing problems and eventually a catastrophic outcome the extent of which is difficult to imagine.

The second choice, the one beginning with legislation like HB 2020 and the Green New Deal will provide the option for a livable and sustainable future.

HB 2020 offers a path for Oregon to become a clean economic engine, joining a number of States leading in this important change towards respecting the commons, our water and our air without freezing the economy and bringing it to a dangerous standstill. On the contrary, the bill encourages a redistribution of jobs to communities in need, communities that have been left behind and are suffering from lack of economic and educational opportunities.

As seniors, my wife and I are feeling a lot more vulnerable to unpredictable climate chaos, whether in the Winter with record snow and ice storms provoking long power outages and smoke filled Summer air that grows increasingly dangerous to breathe. We have been residents of Oregon for little more than a decade and have seen overwhelming evidence of deterioration in the Climate. But beyond personal observations on Climate change, I have kept informed as best as I can through many announcements from the scientific community. I have no doubt that we are in a serious predicament. Passivity or denial are nothing short of criminality.

If HB 2020 offers the potential of reducing our yearly output by 2 million metric tons of carbon into the atmosphere, I wholeheartedly am in support of it and urge you to have the conscience to resist any compromises or watering-down of this bill.

There will be pressure from some powerful BIG polluters who will scream bloody murder and beg for leniency. The common good, I am sure you agree, should outweigh all personal grievances and hardships.

I would hope that our children have the right to grow up and thrive on a planet that fosters life in balance and live without the fear of catastrophic climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this issue as I have more than once in the recent past, and will continue to do so with passion and commitment.

Marco Elliott
Eugene, OR.