

HB 2020 TESTIMONY

HONORABLE CO-CHAIRS DEMBROW AND POWER, AND MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON CARBON REDUCTION:

MY NAME IS KATHRYN CULLEN. I AM A RESIDENT OF BEND, OREGON. **I AM HERE TO URGE YOU TO PASS HOUSE BILL 2020, THE CLEAN ENERGY JOBS BILL.**

I AM A LIFE LONG VOTER, RETIRED FROM A LONG CAREER IN MANAGMENT CONSULTING. I AM NOW FOCUSED ON WORKING WITH ORGANZIATIONS THAT SUPPORT ACTIONS THAT WILL CLEAN UP OUR ENVIRONMENT SO OUR LEGACY TO THE NEXT GENERATION WILL LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE THEY CAN BREATHE THE AIR, DRINK THE WATER AND ENJOY OUR OCEANS AND BEAUTIFUL ENVIRONMENT. I ASK YOU TO PASS A STRONG BILL WITH A MEANINGFUL CAP TO REDUCE EMISSIONS AS QUICKLY AS SCIENTISTS SAY WE MUST. THE LEGISLATION SHOULD INCLUDE TARGETS TO REDUCE GHG EMISSIONS BY 20% BY 2025, AT LEAST 55% BY 2035 AND 100% BY 2050.

AN INDEPENDENT ECONOMIC STUDY PRESENTED TO THE LEGISLATURE IN 2019 SHOWS HB 2020 WILL BENEFIT OUR ECONOMY. IT WILL ADD TO HOUSEHOLD INCOME ACROSS ALL TAX BRACKETS, WITH THE MOST GOING TO LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS BECAUSE IT WILL CREATE THOUSANDS OF GOOD-PAYING JOBS AND THE TRANSITION TO CLEANER ENERGY WIL LOWER COSTS FOR PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES.

OUR FORESTS BURN WITH INCREASING INTENSITY, FILLING THE SKY WITH CHOKING SMOKE. IN 2017, WILDFIRES COST OREGON \$51.5 MILLION IN LOST VISITOR SPENDING. WE CAN NOT LET THS BECOME OUR NEW NORMAL. OUR MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS - CHILDREN, ELDERS, COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, LOW-INCOME AND RURAL OREGONIANS - SUFFER MOST FROM CLIMATE IMPACTS LIKE WILDFIRE SMOKE AND EXTREME HEAT.

OREGON HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD, AND IN DOING SO WILL REAP THE BENEFITS OF A CLEAN ENRGY ECONOMY – FROM MORE JOBS IN THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR TO CLEANER AIR FOR ALL. MAKE YOUR CITIZENS PROUD AND PASS THIS BILL!

THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE TESTIMONY.

KATHRYN CULLEN

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