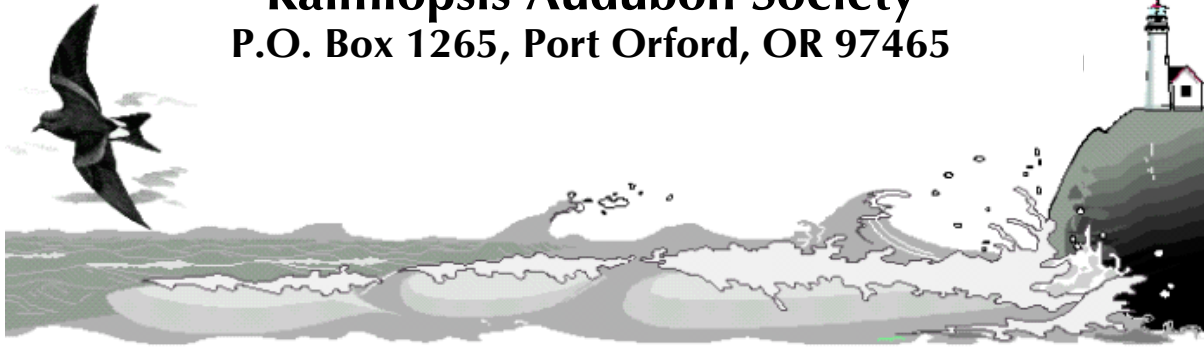


Kalmiopsis Audubon Society

P.O. Box 1265, Port Orford, OR 97465



March 1, 2019

To: Oregon Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction
Re: H.B. 2020 Oregon Climate Action Program
Submitted to:

Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

I am writing on behalf of the Kalmiopsis Audubon Society. Our group has more than 350 members in Curry County, Oregon, who are concerned about habitat for birds, fish, and wildlife, and so we are particularly attuned to and concerned about the looming threats associated with climate change. For this reason, we support H.B 2020, to enact the proposed Oregon Climate Action Program.

We commend your leadership in working towards meaningful action on this critical public policy issue of our time. It is critical not only for our ecology but also for our communities, public health, and the economy far into the future. There is no other issue for which interconnections between all these elements are so clear.

In last year's IPCC report, the world's leading climate scientists made it clear that we have only 12 years to make changes if we are to succeed in fending off the most egregious effects of climate change that are predicted to come with rising temperatures.

Already, we are experiencing changes in our coastal communities. Some examples include higher storm surges and super high King Tides that batter the coast, putting Hwy 101 at greater risk; wildfires made worse by with higher temperatures, lower humidity and drought in our forests, a trend that is projected to worsen in the future, with implications for respiratory health. (To be clear, climate change is one of several reasons for increasing fire hazards.) In addition, we've seen conditions in our streams deteriorate with more frequent and pervasive algal blooms. This year, chinook salmon returns have been the worst in recent history. And in recent years, the mysterious "Blob" of warm ocean water off Oregon's coast has contributed to die offs of marine creatures and to increased virulence of pathogens. Commercial fishermen in our community have voiced concern about the future of their livelihoods.

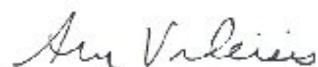
With time running short, we appreciate your courage and thoughtful approach to craft a cap and invest program that will not only guarantee that carbon will be reduced but it will also help to create jobs in an emerging clean energy economy. Because Oregon's urban areas generate far more carbon, while rural areas need funding for wildfire and drought risk reduction, renewable energy, affordable housing, and watershed resilience, we urge you to make sure the final bill will be fair for rural Oregon and will, in fact, be a win for the whole state.

We deeply appreciate that our own Representative David Brock Smith has served on this prestigious and important task force and are aware that he has reservations about the final bill. We respectfully urge legislators to continue working together to create the strongest bill possible to address the issue of climate change.

There are many policy options and these have already been debated for decades, so it's high time to move forward with promising approach that will work for Oregon. We must not let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

Thank you for considering our comments and for your public service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Vileisis".

Ann Vileisis
President