

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

I am writing to voice strong support for HB 2020, also known as the Clean Energy Jobs bill. My name is Becky Brun and I live in Hood River, where I am the owner of my own communications firm and a former city council member. I serve as the co-chair of the Hood River County Energy Council, which is an 11-member all-volunteer committee tasked with helping our local governing bodies implement our the Hood River County Energy Plan.

The Hood River County Energy Plan is a blueprint to help our community reduce emissions from the burning of fossil fuels and increase economic benefits related to energy use in Hood River County, while improving community resilience and energy independence. Our community, like many others in Oregon, considers climate change as a serious threat to our economy. With mounting evidence showing that governments must act with greater urgency to address global warming, the state must step up to mitigate our greenhouse gas emissions. If it doesn't climate change will exact enormous costs to our people, environment and economy.

As an Oregon resident and business owner, I want to stress the economic opportunity presented by HB 2020. The Cap-and-Invest program created by HB 2020 will send the right market signals to drive investment and job growth across the state. A recent economic analysis commissioned by the Governor's office found that passage of the bill would lead to around 50,000 new jobs in Oregon, a 2.5% growth in Oregon's real GDP, and an increase in Oregonians' household income across all tax brackets, with the most going to low-income households.

I am confident that the Clean Energy Jobs bill would send a clear, long-term signal to investors that Oregon's clean energy market is poised for further expansion and give Oregon a competitive advantage to capture the rising tide of investments and businesses ready to put Oregonians to work in clean energy. As experience in other jurisdictions has shown, the benefits of a Cap-and-Invest program extend beyond the cleantech sector and can create revenue streams and provide resources to Oregon's farmers, foresters, and ranchers. It is because of these economic opportunities that 78 Oregon business leaders and investors signed a letter in support of HB 2020.

To maximize the benefits to Oregonians, the legislature must pass a strong bill that enables linkage to the Western Climate Initiative which at a minimum means adopting a declining cap on par with California's 2030 requirement that emissions fall at least 40 percent below 1990 levels.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. As an Oregon business and community leader, I urge you to pass HB 2020 and create the strongest Cap-and-Invest program possible.

Becky Brun
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