

To the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

I strongly support the Clean Energy Jobs Bill, HB 2020, and urge the legislature to pass it.

Climate change is real. We humans are causing it by burning fossil fuels. It is already doing significant harm, and if we don't act boldly now, it will do much more harm. We owe it to our children, grandchildren and future generations to act.

That's why I strongly support the Oregon Clean Energy Jobs bill.

A cap and trade (or cap and invest) system is a smart way to reduce carbon emissions, since it harnesses market forces to determine the best way to reduce those emissions. Investing proceeds of selling emission allowances both to fund carbon sequestration, and to fund the shift to clean energy, is a smart way to make the cap and trade system do double duty.

I also urge the legislature to dedicate a significant percentage of those proceeds to investments in forests, farms and other rural and natural lands that can draw carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. Investing in carbon sequestration is investment in our rural areas. Oregon's forests, wetlands and other rural lands are a powerful tool for fighting climate change.

Do not be put off by the cries of "wolf!" by the naysayers. Over the last 60 years our state and federal governments have adopted many measures which have cleaned up our air and water. Each time naysayers said "we can't afford it," but in fact we've cleaned up our economy while the economy has grown, and corporate profits and the stock market have set record after record. I am convinced the Clean Energy Jobs bill will not only not cost us prosperity, but it will contribute to our prosperity, as we create new jobs in the shift to clean energy.

Thanks.

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