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To: Co-chairs Dembrow & Power, and Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

Greetings,

I write today seeking your support in passing HB 2020.

We humans, when faced with an overwhelming challenge, sometimes respond with procrastination, hoping the problem will go away. Other times, we put our head in the sand, again hoping the problem will go away. Sometimes we blame others, still hoping the problem goes away (for us). And sometimes those strategies even work.

However, these ill-fated strategies have not served us well thus far in addressing the overwhelming challenges of global climate change; we must instead face this crisis head-on and with eyes wide open.

There is a preponderance of scientific and anecdotal evidence that global climate change is a real phenomenon, that the effects of these changes are catastrophic for the planet and those that live on it, and that these changes were triggered by human activity. Studies indicate that the planet is already experiencing the negative results of global climate change through storms, droughts and flooding of increased frequency and severity, resulting in increased forest fires, earth slides, coastal erosion, air pollution, loss of animal habitat, and a loss of crops and commercial fishing.

These damaging results are not limited to environmental concerns, but certainly include lost wages, reduced tourism dollars, a reduction of Oregonian's quality of life, and ever-increasing healthcare costs due to air pollution, extreme heat, etc. It is even realistic to imagine several Oregon coastal communities needing to re-locate due to sea level rise.

The Oregon Legislature, by passing HB 2020, has an opportunity right now to lead the technological developments the planet needs to survive as we know it today. In doing so, Oregon will be doing its part to curb the harmful effects of climate change as well as positioning Oregon's workforce and economy to succeed in a changing world.

For example, In 2017, wildfires cost Oregon \$51.5 million in lost tourism. This staggering amount does not include the additional expenses of fighting the fires. Oregon's family farmers and ranchers are already experiencing the brunt of climate impacts. Wasco County lost 50% of its wheat crop last year to wildfire. 70 percent of Oregon experienced severe drought in 2018, impacting the water available for irrigation and farming during the time of year when farmers needed it most. In spite of the heavy snowfalls this past week, Oregon remains in a drought today. The economic impacts of

these losses go far beyond the costs listed here; they ripple through entire communities, indeed through the entire state.

In sharp contrast, an economic study was recently presented to the Oregon Legislature demonstrating that HB 2020 will benefit Oregon's economy. HB 2020, by creating thousands of well-paid jobs in a rapidly growing technology sector, will add to household income across all tax brackets, with the most going to low-income households. Additionally, transitioning to cleaner energy, such as solar, will lower costs for people and businesses over the long term.

I have personally been impacted by the increased, intense forest fire smoke these recent years in Bend. As a performing musician, I have had numerous shows canceled in the past two years due to unsafe air quality, including the total cancelation of the 2017 Sisters Folk Festival for the first time in its 22 year history. As a music teacher, I have had parents cancel lessons due to the health concerns of bringing their children out into the smoke. As a sailor, I have many times stayed home instead of enjoying the natural beauty of Oregon's mountain lakes as it wasn't safe to breathe the mountain air. As a backpacker, I contend with the results of catastrophic forest fires in the forms of air pollution, closed wilderness, and extensive burn areas where it is neither pleasant, nor safe, to be.

And, even more concerning is my friend, who has left Bend for months at a time due to life-threatening complications forest fires bring to his cystic fibrosis. I know he is not the only one in our state to experience not being able to breath the air.

A government's first order of business is to protect and improve the health, security and safety of its citizens. An improvement to citizens' quality of life through economic prosperity comes directly behind. Sadly, global climate change is directly threatening all of those qualities. The time for all government bodies to act was years ago, but the final opportunity has not yet escaped us. I implore you to vote in favor of HB 2020 during this legislative session. Oregon needs comprehensive climate action now, without climate or environmental rollbacks. Passing a strong HB 2020 should be your first order of business.

Sincerely,

Dale Largent