

Co-chairs Dembrow and Power, and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

My name is Emily Tompkins from Bend, Oregon. I am testifying to support HB2020, the Clean Energy Jobs Bill.

I have a degree from the London School of Economics in climate change and economic development. I've worked internationally for over 10 years on climate change as a forest carbon project developer with rural communities in Colombia and Brazil. I have seen first hand how climate actions are tools for economic development and innovation around the world.

We can do the same in Oregon by passing HB2020 and accelerating investment into climate beneficial activities that create jobs, reduce wildfire and other climate risks to our communities and businesses, and make Oregon a leader in climate resilient forestry and agriculture.

My firm developed the first community-owned forest carbon project in Colombia with a community of Afro-Colombian landowners. Last year, our community partners received over \$800,000 for the sale of carbon credits from the conservation of their 30,000 acre forest over five years. The community will reinvest this revenue to create jobs, invest in new businesses, create scholarships, and improve infrastructure. Why not deliver such benefits here to rural Oregonians?

This bill proposes no specific allocation of funding to the land and forestry sector. This is a missed opportunity. HB2020 must be economy-wide and not exclude the wood products sector that represents the largest source of statewide emissions according to a recent OSU study. HB 2020 has the potential to create not only clean energy jobs but also jobs in climate smart forestry and agriculture that will make our forests and farms more productive and resilient to wildfire and drought. This makes good business sense and benefits our public health and the climate.

Both public and private forest lands in Oregon have the potential to store much more carbon. With the right legal framework, outreach, technical and financial support, Oregon farmers, ranchers and forest owners will be able to diversify their revenue sources, generate additional revenue for the environmental services they are already providing, or those that they can begin to provide once they make the shift to climate beneficial forestry, ranching, and agriculture. I support HB 2020 for its ability to provide this opportunity in addition to the many benefits in the clean energy sector.

Now is the time to accelerate our participation in this growing market and invest in nature-based solutions to climate change. Globally, forestry and land use will account for almost 40% of the needed global emissions reductions needed for a 2 -degree scenario. It is incumbent on Oregon's decision-makers to embrace the science of climate

resilient forestry to accelerate the timber industry's transformation from a climate and health threat to one of its most innovative, profitable and job creating solutions.

There is ample evidence that demonstrates the economics of climate-smart transitions. An independent economic study presented to the legislature in 2019 shows HB 2020 will benefit our economy. It will increase 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 will lower costs for people and businesses.

The bill should be improved by:

- Make Oregon's forests, farms and other lands central to the bill and Oregon's Ghg inventory;
- Include all sectors of the economy and all big emitters—including the land use and forestry sector and the wood products industry. No one gets a free pass.
- Small family forest owners should be targeted to receive assistance to monetize the carbon stored in their forests
- Allocate resources to scale up forest restoration and resilience prescriptions to reduce the risk of unnaturally severe fires. This could include thinning dense private and public plantation forests to be more resilient to wildfire.

As the mother of a 15 month old, I want to be able to look him in the eye and say I did everything I could to mitigate climate change. Scientists agree we have 11 years to drastically reduce emissions if we want to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change. Clean Energy Jobs is a policy that has been in the making for over a decade. We must act now and pass HB 2020 this year.

Sincerely,

Emily R. Tompkins  
Bend, OR