

To: Co-chairs Sen. Michael Dembrow and Rep. Karin Power
Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

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From: Gretchen Valido, Bend, Oregon

Date: March 1, 2019

“Climate-related risks will continue to grow without additional action. Decisions made today determine risk exposure for current and future generations and will either broaden or limit options to reduce the negative consequences of climate change. While Americans are responding in ways that can bolster resilience and improve livelihoods, neither global efforts to mitigate the causes of climate change nor regional efforts to adapt to the impacts currently approach the scales needed to avoid substantial damages to the U.S. economy, environment, and human health and well-being over the coming decades.” ~ The Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II, Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States ([source](#))

I write as a citizen of Bend as someone who has read widely and is deeply worried about the dire consequences of not taking action on Climate Change. I firmly support enactment of HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs bill, as do family members and my circle of friends and acquaintances who recognize its significance.

Because of their incontrovertibly detrimental effects on climate, carbon and other GHGs in the Earth’s atmosphere and oceans must be reduced. We can do our part here in Oregon, and that’s why I endorse HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs bill. Passage of this bill will facilitate reduction of GHGs and generate jobs that will enhance Oregon’s economic growth. Passage of this bill will serve as a model for other states to step up and create momentum for other states to transition to clean energy economies.

According to the February 26, 2019 report “Energy in the American Mind: December 2018,” by the Yale Program on Climate Communication, three in four Americans (87% Democrats/ 79% Independents/ 58% Republicans) support transitioning to 100% clean, renewable energy. Top reasons for supporting 100% clean energy they cited are: a) reducing water and air pollution, b) providing a better life for our children/grandchildren, c) getting energy from sources that will never run out, d) reducing energy costs, and e) improving people’s health. Another finding, most Americans think policies that promote clean energy will improve economic growth and create new jobs. 66% cited reducing global warming. One cannot argue against those benefits. [Source](#).

HB 2020 features a mandated declining cap on pollution of 2.2 million metric tons every two years, in effect the equivalent of shutting down a coal-fired plant. The effects of a clean energy economy will reverberate throughout Oregon’s employment sector, creating forward-looking new jobs and lifting our state into a better competitive position into the future.

What’s more, with funds generated from HB 2020, Oregon will have an exciting opportunity to help more Oregonians invest in home and business energy and weatherization efficiencies and

utilize clean energy; and have access to improved transportation options and more affordable housing.

Of utmost importance is to incorporate provisions in the bill that will ensure that communities of color, low income, and rural, marginalized sectors do not experience inequitable, unintended, negative consequences with the implementation of HB 2020.

It's my understanding that ten states have already implemented cap-and-invest type bills. Examining the results, we see that all of these states have improved their economies, stabilized energy prices, and lowered emissions, all while benefitting from thousands of new jobs. One only need look at California's impressive 26% jump in manufacturing output to be impressed by the potential for job growth here in Oregon.

Why not just wait another two years on this? What is the downside of not passing HB 2020 this session? Besides not harvesting the benefits cited above, every year we'll experience escalating costs of dealing with the ravaging impacts of climate disruption: unimaginably devastating wildfires, droughts, flooding, declining agricultural productivity, unhealthy smoke-filled skies, rising temperatures, water shortages, rising coastal sea levels, unpredictable weather, unstable/insecure markets, livelihoods at risk. Of note also are the possible psychological effects experienced with an increasingly unfriendly climate—depression, decreasing life spirit, a sense of grief, isolating loneliness, declining health.

It is widely acknowledged that Oregonians place high value on Nature, our stunning natural environment, clean air and clean water—which not insignificantly draw many out-of-state tourist dollars. But an impaired climate brings rising threats of harm/extinction to our amazing vegetation, forests, fish, pollinators and other wildlife, the very web of life which provides incalculably valuable ecosystem services.

It would be immoral to do nothing. Humans have caused this climate crisis, and we must take responsible climate action in 2019. Every year of inaction on climate disruption will cause exponentially more dire future impacts. I hereby incorporate in this comment the three referenced sources listed below my signature.

Oregonians share this planet with others who are also at peril. Therefore, take courage, be brave, create hope for the future. Let's get going and pass HB 2020 Clean Energy Jobs, a good start. We Must Do Our Part, Oregon.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Valido

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I encourage you to access the resources listed below to deepen your conviction that across the political divide citizens worry about Climate Change and want you to take action on it. (When weighing data differences by party affiliation, remember that in Oregon the Democratic party has a significantly higher voter registration than the Republican party.)

1. Climate Note, Feb. 21, 2019; A Growing Majority of Americans Think Global Warming is Happening and Are Worried. [Link here](#). “Data from our ‘Climate Change in the American Mind’ surveys show that, over the past five years, the proportion of Americans who think global warming is happening and who worry about it has increased sharply... These increases have occurred across the political spectrum.”
2. Report, Feb. 5, 2019; Politics and Global Warming, December 2018. [Link here](#). “Across party lines, a majority of registered voters say corporations and industry should do more to address global warming (75% of registered voters, 91% of Democrats, 72% of Independents, 53% of Republicans).”
3. The Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II, Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States. [Link here](#). NOAA served as the lead agency in the preparation of this report. This report focuses on the human welfare, societal and environmental elements of climate change and variability of ten regions and 18 national topics, with particular attention paid to observed and projected risks, impacts, consideration or risk reduction, and implications of different mitigation pathways... This assessment was written to help inform decision-makers, utility and natural resource managers, public health officials, emergency planners and other stakeholders by providing a thorough examination of the effects of climate change on the United States. Topic chapters include Communities, Economy, Interconnected Impacts, Actions to Reduce Risks, Water, Health, Indigenous Peoples, Ecosystems & Services, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Oceans & Coasts, Tourism & Recreation.