

To: Co-chairs Dembrow and Power, and Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction  
From: Ron Foerster, Bend, Oregon  
Subject: Testimony re **HB 2020, The Clean Energy Jobs Bill, March 2, 2019, Bend Oregon**

**My name is Ron Foerster and I have lived in Bend since 2000 when I retired after 30 years from the high tech telecommunications industry. I am not a climate scientist but do have a PhD from Stanford University in electrical engineering. Since my retirement I have been following the debate about climate change and have read many, many peer reviewed scientific papers about climate change. I have also attended numerous seminars on this subject and have visited several science museums addressing this subject, including the Smithsonian in Washington DC and the British Science Museum in London. My conclusion from all this research is that climate change is happening at an accelerating rate, is primarily caused by man's use of carbon-based energy and other practices, and is a critical issue that we must address. The consequences of not acting are many and severe, including the destruction of the world's coral reefs. These reefs support life forms that generate 30% of the earth's oxygen. Already, 20% of the earth's coral reefs are dying or dead as a result of warming oceans. This is startling and should keep us all awake at night.**

**I am a grandfather of 7 beautiful children. Hardly a day goes by when I don't think about the terrible legacy we may be leaving these children. If we don't act aggressively to minimize the damage that will be caused by our warming earth ( it's already too late to prevent all damage), then we will not only be leaving them a habitat which is seriously degraded from what we enjoy today, but we will also be leaving them with very serious economic costs which will dwarf our costs of dealing with climate change today.**

I strongly support HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs Bill. The fact that this bill will be economically positive for our state, in addition to addressing climate change, is a bonus. It would, in my opinion, be extremely selfish and criminally irresponsible to not pass this bill. While I think we need to be even more aggressive in addressing climate change, this is a step in the right direction. Once this Bill is passed, I encourage you to continue your efforts to help Oregon further reduce our carbon footprint. I further encourage you to lobby our elected officials in other states and in Washington DC to follow our lead. In my opinion, it is not possible to do too much to reduce our carbon footprint and address other measures that will minimize the disaster that will result from our warming climate.

Thank you for your attention.

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