

February 2/23/19 Testimony in Medford, Oregon

I and my loved ones have been impacted in dramatic and long-term ways by the frequency and size of wildfires engendered by climate change. Because I have asthma, last summer I tired to flee fire smoke cloaking Ashland by camping elsewhere—only to be chased by mega-fires all along the West Coast. My sons (one of whom is also asthmatic) work outdoors where heavy smoke in the Rogue Valley lingered all summer—on some days rated the worst in the world. Family members in Chico every day see Paradise refugees who are still homeless. A friend died in the Klamathon fire. Our farm (in the family for three generations) would have been razed by wildfire had the not the wind shifted at the last minute. All in just two seasons of 2018.

But these dramatic personal experiences are not the primary reason why I am testifying today. The Clean Energy Jobs Bill, HB 2020, represents Oregon's only feasible way to actually reach climate care goals set by previous legislatures.

Because there many citizens waiting to testify tonight, I will rely on others to clarify the well-thought-out details of this bill. I hope you will come away from this hearing recognizing that **the details in this bill have been refined through years of bipartisan negotiation, ample scientific input and persistent grassroots advocacy.**

My focus tonight is an appeal to protect the integrity of this bill by:

- **upholding goals recommended by scientists to avert catastrophe**
- **requiring that the biggest polluters help hard-hit communities transition to renewable energy**
- **resisting the temptation to appease the biggest polluters with exemptions, offsets and other concessions incompatible with the bill's goals.**
- **Ensuring citizen representation on boards overseeing this climate-care program.**

Thank you for an opportunity to present this urgent appeal in person. The challenge to better care for our climate cannot depend upon the long arc of history. **The power is now – fleetingly—in our hands to salvage for future generations a habitable remnant of the world we have known and loved.**

Sincerely,



Joan Kalvelage, PhD.

810 Faith Avenue Ashland, Oregon 97520