

To: Beth Reiley, Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction
From: Stuart Liebowitz, Douglas County Global Warming Coalition
RE: Comments on House Bill 2020

Please find enclosed comments on House Bill 2020 on behalf of the Douglas County Global Warming Coalition.

Stuart Liebowitz, Facilitator
143 SE Lane Avenue
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
Ph- 541-672-9819

Additional Board members:

Dick Dolgonas	Scott McKain	Melanie MacKinnon
Neal Hadley	Polly Stirling	

On behalf of the Douglas County Global Warming Coalition, an all-volunteer grassroots organization representing over 450 members of our community, we wholeheartedly and enthusiastically support House Bill 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs Bill. I have lived in Douglas County for the last 40 years. During this time, I have witnessed year after year, decade after decade, an unemployment rate that generally reached 1½ to 2 times the State average. But the Clean Energy Jobs Bill offers a path to a brighter future. By prioritizing investments in rural communities such as ours, the bill offers the opportunity to be a partner in the fastest growing employment sector in Oregon - a clean energy future.

When I first started this journey 25 years ago to address the climate crisis, little did I realize the projected impacts would become a reality so soon - ocean acidification compromising our shellfish industry and record wildfires across Oregon. And now the best science tells us we have but a dozen years to avert the catastrophic consequences of climate change.

For me, the irony is this: What began as a cause for the planet is now also a personal one. As one who has had a heart related operation and suffers from asthma, I woke up each summer morning gasping for breath from the toxic smoke of the wildfires. Ultimately, I went to the doctor for medical treatment. Today, the climate change cause is both a selfless one and a selfish one. For who among us can say that one day we won't be subject to the impacts of climate change?

It is long past time to take action. It is time to pass the Clean Energy Jobs Bill - for the planet, for our children and for each other.

Stuart Liebowitz
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