

Kira Gilbert
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Good morning! I would like to thank the Co-chairs Dembrow and Power, and the members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction for having us here today. My name is Kira Gilbert. I was born and raised here in Bend, and I am a sophomore at Bend High. I am here in support of House Bill 2020-- The Clean Energy Jobs Bill.

I support the bill because it supports our economy, and it will help protect our precious environment. I think that it is essential that we start protecting the earth that we live on because there is no planet B and we need to slow our carbon emissions down before it becomes too late. This bill would reduce 2.2 million metric tons of pollution every two years. The bill would also generate money that can be reinvested into green solutions like more mass transit options and making cities more bike friendly. Not to mention, the bill would also create numerous new clean energy jobs and boost the economy.

Climate change is affecting Oregon at an alarmingly high rate. For example, there seems to be an increasing amount of forest fires during the summer. These not only impact the environment directly, but they impact Oregonians too. The past two summers, my cross country team has had to run inside through our school hallways because it is too smoky to run outside. The fires impact many many people including athletes as well as farmers and firefighters to name a few.

I support House Bill 2020 because it would be a big step towards protecting the Oregon that we all know and love. I want to be able to go backpacking, trail running, skiing, kayaking, and mountain biking without the immediate fear of losing the environment. Everyone always says that today's political decisions will impact my generation and generations younger than me. However, this one will impact everyone. Scientists say that we only have 11 years to drastically reduce carbon emissions if we want to slow down the catastrophic effects of climate change. I am here to urge you to vote yes on House Bill 2020 not only for my generation, but for your generation, and the human species as a whole. Thank you for your time.