

Dear Co-chairs Dembrow and Power, and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction,

My name is Alison Wells. I live in House District 54, and I am writing in support of HB 2020.

The U.N. Special Report on Climate Change, released in the fall, ominously concluded that we had just 12 years (less now, of course) to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Failure to do so will create irreversible changes to our planet, changes that threaten economic systems, food supplies, water, livable environments, and human lives. It's no wonder that the U.S. military's Joint Chiefs of Staff have identified climate change as one of the most dangerous threats to the security of our country. The clock is ticking.

What we do now is vitally important, and in HB 2020 we have a huge opportunity to take a step in the right direction to cap carbon. I have heard the argument that this kind of legislation is too costly. But the economic toll exacted by allowing climate change to continue unabated would be undeniably much worse.

Let's look at specifics. Right now we are experiencing the aftermath of one of the worst snowfall events in the history of Oregon. It has resulted in I-5 closures, landslides, airport shutdowns, property damage to roads, economic losses to businesses and lost work time. Calculating the actual amount of the economic hit is difficult, but we do know a couple of things:

There is a current backlog for landslide repairs in Oregon of \$780 million;

Closing I-5 for 24 hours costs an estimated \$7.5 million.

So the cost of just this single extreme weather event has been huge—and it is still growing. Scientists agree that these events will become more frequent. With a predicted 20% increase in extreme precipitation and a 13% increase in days with over one inch of precipitation, flooding and landslides will occur more frequently and incur greater costs.

Broadening the lens, consider the cost of more frequent and more powerful fires. Extreme heat. Droughts. Increased air pollution. What do those do to food prices, health care costs, the ability of farmers and ranchers to stay afloat?

Can we really afford not to do what we can right now to try to mitigate the impending crisis of climate change? I urge you to support a strong HB 2020.

Thank you for your time and for your service.