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

My name is Beatrice Pickett and I am a proud Oregonian from Portland. I am currently studying as an undergraduate at Yale University, where I plan to pursue a double-major in environmental studies and political science. I became passionate about environmental issues at a young age and I remain committed to advocating for sustainable energy solutions and climate justice. I am writing today to urge you to pass HB 2020 in order to address the climate crisis and position Oregon as an environmental leader in the twenty-first century economy.

As a young person who will feel the burden of climate change for the remaining decades of my life, I am deeply worried about the devastation that is inevitable if we continue on our current emissions trajectory. In Oregon, we know that we do not need to wait to experience the hardships of climate change. We have already watched our beloved Eagle Creek wilderness go up in flames, with that being just one of our increasingly frequent wildfires that are a symptom of drier summers. I will never forget stepping outside that week and choking on smoke-filled air, and then walking into my high school classroom to find that the table was dusted in white ash that had drifted in through a ceiling vent. In the coming years, climate change will continue to make its presence felt even more acutely than it has already.

In a state where embracing the outdoors is at the core of our collective identity, climate change is a threat to our Oregonian way of life. Many of my most treasured memories have revolved around Oregon's natural spaces, from walking in Forest Park to exploring the coast. I don't ever want to witness an era when climate change has transfigured Oregon's beautiful wilderness into something that we can barely recognize. Already, snow levels at Crater Lake are decreasing and marine chemistry is shifting due to dissolved carbon. As a state that will be intimately impacted by climate change, we cannot afford to delay action on carbon emissions.

Passing HB 2020 would provide the opportunity for Oregon to take leadership on the climate crisis at a time when this issue is being critically ignored at the federal level. This will be an important step to hold Oregon accountable for its carbon emissions as a state and will set build a precedent that additional states can follow.

I hope to see HB 2020 succeed in order to safeguard Oregon's future. Please let me know if there is anything that I can do as a citizen and advocate to help the bill move forward.

Thank you so much for your service to our state.

Sincerely,
Beatrice Pickett