

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

I am here to testify in support of HB2020, the Clean Energy Jobs bill. As the recent independent economic study showed, this is a benefit to both the climate and the economy. I also think it's worth considering that 10 states already have successful cap-and-invest programs running now. After years of experience, all of them have: growing economies, falling emissions, stable energy prices, and thousands of jobs created. Oregon should be next.

In terms of personal impact: I moved to Oregon recently, from the huge state of Delaware. I was in Portland during the summer, and while I expected the rainy season and months and months of rain and gloom, the smoke was something I did not expect. This is not just about the future, this is about the right now. Climate change is already affecting us. It's not normal to have to wear a mask when taking my dog for a walk, simply because the fire season is longer and more extreme.

I am originally from India. A few years ago, I had the chance to backpack through Southern India and the beautiful state of Kerala. Last year, they had the worst flooding in more than 100 years. 1.3 million people were displaced. To put that in perspective, at last count, the population of Oregon's District 2 (everything east of the Cascades) was 684,280. So roughly twice that. Imagine that. But you don't have to, it's already happening.

This is not going to solve all the problems - but this is a great start. It's an economic, environmental, and moral bill. I hope you support it, and if anything, you find ways to strengthen and improve it. My generation and our children's generation counts upon it. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kavi Chokshi
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