

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

HB2020 is so important to me that I testified on it in Springfield on February 22, where my two state legislators, Lee Beyer and Marty Wilde, were present. I realize from conversations how knowledgeable you are about the issues. I want to say what is obvious to me as a concerned Oregonian.

What is clear to me is that there should be NO full exemptions of the top 100 carbon emissions polluters in Oregon. Full exemptions to Intel, Covanta, and others says that the cap and the urgency behind it are meaningless. It undermines the sacrifices that others are making in the form of health consequences from fire smoke, loss of tourism, hits on the fishing industries, and loss of potential jobs through the clean energy investments.

What is clear to me is that in Oregon, where 84% of greenhouse gas emissions comes from the top 100 polluters, leadership can make a difference with muscular incentives (cap) for these polluters.

What is clear to me is that we can send a message of hope to children and young adults (of both parties) who rightfully express their angst, that we have the courage to take action and learn as we go. I am a mother and a grandmother and I have to answer to these young people.

What is clear to me is that gas prices are more influenced by hurricanes and OPEC than by bills like HB2020. Ten states in the East, California, and Quebec provide evidence.

It also seems to me that the bill can include short term emission measure for 2035. It can include percentages of invested funds for impacted communities, rural and working lands, tribes, and just transition without leading us down the path of PERS expenditures (from which I have benefited). Can we not re-evaluate the percentages every 5 years?

In other words, we have far more to gain from a strong bill than from an evasive one.

Thank you for your dedication,  
Sophia Bowie-McCoy