

Hello and best wishes to all,

As a parent, librarian, and member of the Community for Earth of First Unitarian Church, I am writing to express my support for the strongest possible Clean Energy Jobs Bill. As a librarian I have seen the compelling research that that the window of time for preventing planet-wide devastation is closing fast. We cannot expect the poor countries of the world who did so little to create this crisis -- and who are already suffering the most severe consequences -- to lead this fight. We Americans have one of the highest per capita rates of creating greenhouse gasses, so we have the highest responsibility to lead the way in addressing the crisis that we did so much to create.

As a middle class person, I can afford higher energy prices, and I will appreciate the added incentive to conserve. I also recognize that not all Oregonians can afford these higher prices, so I hope that the final bill includes provisions to protect low income Oregonians during the transition to a clean energy based economy.

I know that this Committee has all the data on the topic of carbon pricing, and the urgency of addressing climate change, so I won't rehash that here. I will just say that it broke my heart when my brilliant, talented 20 year old daughter looked me in the eyes and told me that she has no expectations of a happy future given the path our planet is on. I hope that this Committee will do what it can to create a model that can provide a glimmer of hope for a happy future for all Oregonians.

Thank you,
Roberta Richards
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“The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction.” — Rachel Carson