

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

My name is Kyla Yeoman, a mother and resident of Portland, and I am writing to urge you to strengthen and pass HB2020.

I am passionately in support of the Clean Energy Jobs bill because of the dire urgency with which we must act to counter the disastrous impacts of global warming.

I am just as passionately in support of the Clean Energy Jobs bill because of our state's urgent need for good-paying, long-term economic opportunities.

The people who are hit the hardest by negative climate impacts are those who often feel the brunt of negative policies first - families with low-income, rural communities, tribes, and communities of color. This bill will ensure those communities receive the benefits first. It will provide major investment in putting Oregonians to work by making clean power like solar available to more people, improving energy efficiency in homes and businesses to save people money, building affordable housing near transit and investing in more transportation options.

As a mother of a 3 year old, I am extremely worried that the effects of global warming are hitting us faster and stronger, and will negatively impact her future. Every August since she's been alive, we've had weeks where we have had to stay inside because of particulate matter in the air is so bad, due to forest fires. What will this be like in 10 years? 20? Will August be known as an "indoor" month? And that's simply getting outside to play. The economic fallout from global warming will be massive, and affect her in ways we can barely imagine.

Yet we know how to improve this dire outlook. And HB2020 is a strong step in that direction.

10 states already have successful cap-and-invest programs running now. After years of experience, all of them have: Growing economies, falling CO2 emissions, stable energy prices, and thousands of jobs created.

Oregon should be next.

Please don't dilute this bill any further. There will always be interests that desire the status quo. But we need this now. We can't wait any longer.

Thank you for your leadership on the Clean Energy Jobs bill,  
Kyla Yeoman

P.S. If there are companies that are anticipated to drastically downsize or shutter because of this bill, how can we ensure those workers specifically are the first to be offered training and jobs as part of the implementation of this bill?