

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

My name is Nilana Gunasekaran, and I am a mother who lives in Portland. I am writing to urge you to pass a strong version of HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs bill. I understand that there is significant pressure from industry to weaken the bill by transforming many of the proposed allowances to permanent exemption. I urge you to resist that, and to remove the exemptions granted to Covanta. I also ask you to please include the provisions from the 2018 bill that direct how the Climate Investment Fund should be allocated in order to ensure that rural, tribal, low-income and communities of color are prioritized for investment.

The Clean Energy Jobs bill is an exciting opportunity for Oregon to establish a leadership role in spurring innovation to transition to a green economy. I'm truly excited by the investments this bill will make to support rural and low-income weatherization projects, innovative irrigation and forestry practices, and vehicle electrification. As the independent economic analysis by Berkeley Economic Advising and Research has concluded, HB 2020 will add 2.5% to Oregon's GDP and generate 50,000 jobs. This was also supported by a previous PSU study. We know that cap and invest initiatives can produce strong economic growth, as has been demonstrated by the 10 states and province of Quebec that have already entered the interstate compact. We've seen how China has managed to establish a leadership position in the solar industry by stimulating investment and becoming an early mover. Why can't we do the same?

We can't afford to wait. I have 3 children, ages 10, 14 and 18, and I grieve when I think about the problems we are handing them. We can no longer stand by and dump onto the next generation while the dirty 100 big polluters squeeze out more profits without accounting for the costs they are imposing. We have a model for responsible economy-wide cap and invest legislation that will position Oregon as an economic leader while managing the transition in equitable and responsible ways to help ensure that businesses and communities are not harmed in the change. Let's be the Oregon that we always claim to be. Let's remember the courage and bold vision of Tom McCall. Let's pass a strong Clean Energy Jobs bill, before it's too late.

Regards,

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