

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

My name is Maran Sheils, and I am writing to urge you to pass a strong version of HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs bill. It sounds like there is serious pressure from industry to weaken the bill by converting several of the proposed allowances to permanent exemptions. Please stand strong against that and, further, act to remove the Covanta exemptions. I also ask you to please include the provisions from the 2018 bill that specify allocations for the Climate Investment Fund 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 am proud to live in a state contemplating this bill and to be out in front in finding a way to lead on climate justice, supporting 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. 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. Oregon can do the same.

We can't afford to wait. I have two children, ages 13 and 10, and I am embarrassed and ashamed when I think about their future. The catastrophic fires across the state and region over the past few years, the droughts, the shortening ski and winter recreation seasons are all signs that we are nearing a tipping point. Fires, species loss, air quality - the degradation of our quality of life is palpable. I have felt the changes over the course of my near-20 years in the state.

It's not too late to be bold - to be the version of Oregon we talk about being. Please pass a strong Clean Energy Jobs bill before it's too late.

In solidarity,

Maran Sheils

Portland

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