

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

I'm Chris Clark from Portland, Oregon. As a parent of two teenage native Oregonians, I urge the committee to pass the Clean Energy Jobs Bill, HB 2020.

Every week, headlines and reports remind us that the urgency of reducing carbon to save our environment grows more pressing with each passing day. Weather-related disasters that were sporadic events a decade ago now are the norm. The five warmest years in recorded history were the last five. Eighteen of the nineteen warmest years have occurred since 2001, which was the year my oldest son was born. (Cite: "It's Official: 2018 Was the Fourth-Warmest Year on Record," New York Times, Feb. 6, 2019) This isn't the future I want for my children who tell me it isn't the future they want, either.

The urgency of this crisis hit home for me this last year. A few months ago, I read a headline in CNN recommending various places in the world one should see today before climate change destroys them. At dinner, I mentioned this headline to my two sons, asking if they were interested in finding out more. They are both well aware of the climate crisis their generation is facing. But they didn't want to discuss this article further. It was too painful to think about the beautiful places in our state and world that may not be there when they are young adults. That future is too painful for them to imagine but they know it is a real possibility. Last summer, my hometown lost more than 1,000 homes when the Carr Fire burned through Redding, CA, killing 8 people. I was skeptical when my Mom told that afternoon that they were packing the car in case they

needed to leave. The fire that afternoon was still more than six miles away in Old Shasta. I've seen wildfires before growing up in Redding. Sometimes the smoke was so thick that I couldn't see the elementary school a few blocks away. My parents left their home at 9:30 that night while homes less than a mile away burned to the ground. Had the wind been just a bit stronger, their home would have burned, too. My high school, which was the evacuation site, was evacuated that same evening. My high school isn't in the country. There's a Burger King less than a half mile away. The Carr Fire was so strong that it created a fire tornado with the intensity of EF-3, killing a firefighter. All of this is happening today. My children are fearful of a future within a few decades that is far worse.

Oregon can reverse this dire trend, but we must take action today. We can save our future while helping Oregon's economy. An independent economic study presented to the legislature in 2019 shows that this bill will add to household income across all tax brackets because it will create more than 50,000 good-paying jobs. The transition to cleaner energy will lower costs for people and businesses. The alternative is to do nothing and watch our economy wither and die as drought, wildfire, and warming provide no water for our crops, fill our air with smoke, reduce the snow that sustains tourism and farming, and expand dead zones in our oceans that destroy off our fisheries. We have to act today, or reversing this trend later will become exponentially harder and perhaps impossible.

Nothing you do as a lawmaker today matters one bit if we don't have a future environment that supports life as we know it today. My children fear that the nightmares they have today will be their reality tomorrow, and the headlines today are not encouraging. Are you as brave as the firefighters in my home town who gave their lives to save their fellow citizens in their hour of need? If you are even half that brave and hope to save your own future, I urge you to save the Oregon and world that we love and vote yes on HB 2020.

Sincerely,  
Chris Clark