

Dear Co-Chairs and members of the JCCR,

I would like to voice my support for HB 2020. I live in Bend and could not testify today due to time conflicts, but this issue is probably the most important challenge we face and it's way past time we begin addressing it. A cap and invest system is a valid approach to reducing Oregon's carbon emissions and I believe that if managed properly it will have the intended effect on emissions.

However, I would like the legislature to consider that this is a complex issue, the likes of which humanity has never tackled. As such, we need a citizenry capable of complex thinking and we are not developing that with our current educational system and its less than mediocre outcomes. The money from the sale of GHG emission allowances should go to create the most advanced pre-k through college education system in the world. That system should be one that offers free education through college in exchange for remaining and working in Oregon for a period of time after college. While the other allocations of the funds you've outlined are valid, we will only truly develop a 0 emission economy if our people have the tools to do so.

Thank you,

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