

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

My name is Pamela Howard and I live in Southwest Portland. I am writing this testimony in support of the Clean Energy Jobs Bill. It is very important that you not only pass HB 2020 but that the final version of the Bill remains strong and does not reflect pressure from Corporate Lobbyists.

There is an emergency facing not only our state of Oregon, but our country and our world. The Union of Concerned Scientists and other scientific groups and organizations are sounding an overdue alarm for climate policy action. Every time a new scientific report is released, our timeframe to act gets shorter, temperatures rise more quickly than expected, and the arctic ice cap melts faster than anticipated. Oregonians have been working on the Clean Energy Jobs Bill for over 10 years. Only by setting a cap on pollution that declines 45% by the year 2035 and 80% by 2050 based on 1990 levels, can we hope to turn the corner on our battle against climate change.

Just as we pay a price for our waste collection, the largest corporate polluters, those who produce more than 25,000 tons of greenhouse gases, should pay a price for their pollution. Right now it is Oregonians that are paying the price. Farmers, fishermen, firefighters, tourists, communities of color, poor and rural communities are paying the price. Establishing a carbon marketplace is an equitable and proven solution. Becoming part of the North American regional market will facilitate efficiency and growth of the clean energy sector. Ten states currently have a successful cap & invest system. While reducing statewide carbon emissions and fighting the battle against a warming climate, the substantial amount of money raised each year will power Oregon into a clean energy economy. With the help of the Clean Energy Jobs Bill 2020, innovation in wind and solar options will flourish, de-carbonization of the electricity sector will be possible, and we will establish better green transportation options, including more electric plug in-stations. The money collected will also provide training for new green jobs, and for more energy efficient homes, businesses, and schools. The very groups who are now paying the price will be given a chance to thrive.

Last August, I awoke with stinging eyes and a sore throat. I got up, closed my windows and turned on a portable fan. The air quality index was 180 in Portland. From 151 to 200 is considered unhealthy. The last week of summer vacation for Portland's children was considered unsafe for them to play outside. We cannot let our children inherit a world where they may have to go to school with a particle mask. The hotter, dryer conditions are producing more frequent and intense wildfires. People in Southern Oregon and California were devastated by fires in 2018, which were often followed by landslides and floods. When places like Ashland, Eugene and Portland have worse air than cities like Los Angeles, New Delhi and Beijing, we must act. We think of Oregon as a green, environmentally friendly state, but on a long list of environmental protections, Oregon is last on the West Coast. You, our legislators have the power to turn the climate change wrecking ball into the innovative, green economic engine, insuring Oregon's future and leading the way for other states. Pass a strong version of HB 2020. It will be your legacy for each and every citizen of Oregon and for generations to come.

Thank you,

Pam Howard, 2124 SW Laurel Street, Portland Oregon 97201