



Rabbi Debra Kolodny testimony for House Bill 2020, February 18, 2019

Co-Chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Power, and members of the Committee: my name is Rabbi Debra Kolodny and I'm the Rabbi of Portland's UnShul, the Executive Director of As the Spirit Moves Us, a religious justice organization and the convener for the Portland Spirit Led Justice Alliance.

I am here to urge you to pass the strongest possible version of House Bill 2020.

As a rabbi I am guided by the wisdom and dictates of the Jewish tradition, which begin in Genesis, where we are told to be *shomrei adamah*, guardians of the earth. Later in our scriptures, in Deuteronomy we are instructed how to perform this role. We are told *lo taschit*-do not destroy or waste.

This command was analyzed extensively by our sages and by the year 1500 the broad scope of its instruction was clear. Wasting ANY resources of benefit to humans is prohibited by Torah. For example, in the late 11 hundreds Maimonides taught that a Jew is forbidden to "smash household goods, tear clothes, demolish a building, stop up a spring, or destroy articles of food." Perhaps his commentary is the source text for reduce, reuse and recycle!

Rabbeinu Yerucham in the early 1300's rails against wasting water when others are in need. By the 1800's Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch made clear that that *lo tashchit*, "do not destroy," is "the most comprehensive warning to human beings not to misuse the position which G-d has given them as masters of the world and its matter through capricious, passionate, or merely thoughtless wasteful destruction of anything on earth."

But it doesn't take a theologian to know that our very existence on this planet is at stake and that no other Bill this session will do more to reduce climate pollution in Oregon.

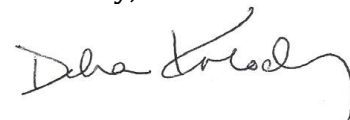
The cap-and-invest system set up by Clean Energy Jobs guarantees that harmful pollution will be reduced as it builds our economy and communities.

I ask you to pass a strong bill with a meaningful cap to reduce emissions as quickly as scientists say we must. We must reduce GHG emissions by 20% by 2025, at least 55% by 2035 and 100% by 2050.

We must hold major polluters accountable with a price on greenhouse gases and not allow exemptions for ANY polluting industries, including aviation, marine, and railroad fuels, as well as fluorinated gases and solid waste incinerators. Any attempt to exempt the proposed Jordan Cove LNG terminal from coverage in the legislation must be denied. Those hit first and worst by climate change should be a priority for job opportunities and other community benefits. This means prioritizing low-income, rural, communities of color and Oregon Tribes for investments, jobs, and training.

Finally, decision-making structures must be transparent, equitable, flexible, and accountable. All advisory and oversight committees should have an over-representation of historically underrepresented communities; the Environmental Justice Task Force, equity groups, and Sovereign Nation representatives must play significant and meaningful roles. I ask you to champion bold climate action with a strong HB 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra Kolodny", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Rabbi Debra Kolodny
Executive Director