

Members of the Committee:

I am writing to urge your support for House Bill 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs Bill.

The scientifically-proven impacts of global warming are acknowledged by nearly 100% of the scientific community as real, and of immediate concern. We cannot afford to wait any longer, if we have any hope of reversing the effects. The Clean Energy Jobs bill would benefit both the environment and Oregon's economy. An independent economic study presented to the legislature in 2019 shows HB 2020 will add to household income across all tax brackets, with the most going to low-income households, because it will create thousands of good-paying jobs and the transition to cleaner energy will lower costs for people and businesses.

Multi-million dollar corporations are funding advertising campaigns that threaten to pass along their cost of becoming environmentally responsible to the consumer. This fear tactic targets the low-income people in our state. Yet, while it has not happened in other states with cap-and-invest laws, the concern remains largely unchallenged. We are counting on YOU to stand up to the corporate polluters and speak the truth to the people of our state.

For small businesses, the benefits of a transition to a clean energy economy are many. In particular, increased economic activity is generated for small businesses that are already part of the clean energy economy, from family-owned construction companies, design businesses, and solar installers, all the way to hardware supply and heating/cooling companies. Additionally, they will benefit from energy savings through investments from the program. Clean energy upgrades can be made affordable with funds from Clean Energy Jobs.

The clean energy economy provides all kinds of Oregonians with good-paying, family wage jobs. When families have adequate income, they tend to invest in their homes and children, dine out more often, and shop at local businesses. The economic stimulus is unlimited and supports all, whether or not they are employed in a Clean Energy Job.

An independent economic analysis released this month, commissioned by the state of Oregon, shows the Clean Energy Jobs cap-and-invest system for lowering greenhouse gases and investing in clean energy, will:

- add 2.5% to Oregon's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2050
- create 50,000 full-time, good-paying jobs by 2050.
- potentially save Oregonians, within 9 years, at least \$2 billion in health care costs **annually** by reducing pollution.

As a retired teacher, I have seen pollution-related illness (allergies, asthma) increase dramatically over the last ten years among my students. The number of days annually in which air quality is deemed "unhealthy for sensitive groups" (of which I am one) has also substantially increased. As a grandmother of 6, I want future generations of Oregonians to live in a state where the air is clear and breathable, the

water is clean and potable, and quality of life continues to improve, rather than decline. Please act now to make this a reality.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Toni Skelton  
870 Beaver Loop NW  
Salem, OR 97304