

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

My name is *Michael Heumann, MPH, MA* and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am a public health epidemiologist who works on preparing for, responding to and recovering from natural and manmade disasters. It is very important to me that you pass HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs bill. HB 2020 will benefit our economy, as an independent economic study recently presented to the legislature shows. This bill 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. One of the best parts of the bill is that it guarantees 2.2 million metric tons of pollution will be reduced every two years. This is an important start to addressing the threats from climate change, it will help the environment and the health of all Oregonians. HB 202 is also needed in order to reduce undo revenue to our state, such as the loss in 2017 of \$51.5 million in visitor spending due to disruptions from severe wildfires. Drought is another threat in our region, and its impacts are felt across the state—from agriculture and forestry interests, to both rural and urban drinking water sources, to the health of our fish and the health of our population.

Increases in the size and frequency of wildfires over recent years has caused and exacerbated serious breathing problems among people living down wind, which has been measured by increases in emergency room visits and hospitalizations during and following these fires. Heat waves put many Oregonians in rural areas and cities at risk for heat stress and heat stroke, and the Oregon Health Authority has tracked such cases for a number of years now. In addition to threatening people, droughts in the Pacific Northwest is impacting our fish populations, our crops and our forests. The heat and dryness is damaging trees and making them susceptible to insect infestations which is increasing the damage from wildfires. We do not have time to put this off for some future legislative session.

Last year a new report came out that shows we have 11 years to reduce emissions before our climate fate is sealed. We must act now — the longer we wait, the worse things will get and the more costly it will be for government to respond and for people and animals to adapt. In my work in

public health preparedness, I am seeing disasters become more severe and more frequent. They continue to increase the dramatic toll on our communities and our ability to bounce back. Indeed, there is no single other threat to our state, our way of life and to the world than the impacts from climate change.

Please do everything in your power to protect our future, that of our economy and resources. Please act now by passing a strong Clean Energy Jobs bill that will give our future generations a world in which to thrive. Passing the Clean Energy Jobs bill this year is an important first step.

Thank you,  
Michael Heumann

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