

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

My name is KB Mercer, and I am a small business owner and proud Oregonian. I moved here with my husband from San Diego 11 years ago after seeing “An Inconvenient Truth”. It changed my life.

In San Diego you could already see climate change happening: weeks of punishing heat in the summer becoming more frequent and longer, droughts, and dangerous fire seasons getting more destructive and deadly. Like many others who will be coming in the next decade, my husband and I moved north. We now own a modest house in Portland, and in my “spare” time I work with many organizations to do everything I can to promote legislation to combat climate change.

Organizations that I work with include: 350PDX Legislative Team, Citizen’s Climate Lobby, Renew Oregon, Sierra Club, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, and Friends of the Columbia Gorge. I am a Climate Reality Leader (Al Gore).

Evidence of the changing climate haunts me daily, and this issue is of the utmost importance to me.

I support HB 2020. It is what Oregon needs, and we need it *now*. Time is running out. The IPCC report giving us about a decade to slam the brakes on carbon pollution is clear, and the avoidance, denial, delay, and politicizing of this issue must end. Oregon must change, and step into the new green economy. Just as buggy whips are no longer a viable industry after being replaced by the car, so the fossil fuel industry must be put out of business by renewable, sustainable energy sources and oil must now be left in the ground. Our state will thrive in this new economy if we get on board in time.

I urge you to keep this bill as strong as possible, and not water it down. Speed and effectiveness in reducing carbon pollution must be of the highest priority, and I urge each member of the JCCR to make this your mission as you finish crafting this bill.

To keep the bill strong I support the following:

- No exemptions *at all*. This includes Jordon Cove, marine/aviation fuels, and HFC’s.
- As few free allowances as possible, with all Oregon polluters under the cap.
- Maximum of 90% free allowances for all GHG emitting entities.
- A steep cap: 55% by 2035, and ZERO by 2050.
- Rely on the best and latest available science.
- Limit offsets to 4%, and keep 2% of those environmental benefits in Oregon.
- No rollback of existing emission standards.
- Require PUC to adopt as its core mission supporting Oregon's transition to a clean energy economy.

- Restore the Citizen's Advisory Committee.

You are going to be told that you don't care about Oregon families and businesses and that you are causing financial hardship. These are shortsighted complaints. By passing HB 2020 you are showing that you *do care* about Oregonians and about Oregon, very deeply. You are doing the right thing, making the harder, wiser choice and protecting the very people railing against change.

This bill will be your legacy to future generations. Thank you for having the courage to stand strong and do what must be done.

Thank you;

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