

I am writing to voice my support for HB2020, the Clean Energy Jobs Bill.

I just attended the public hearing in Bend yesterday, and was inspired by the people who spoke, both in favor of, and in opposition to, the bill.

I used to think that those of us in Central Oregon aren't on the front lines of feeling the effects of climate change, such as rising ocean levels. However, we are definitely feeling the effects in the form of shorter winters (bad for skiers and the ski industry), and horrible smoke from wildfires which used to only last a few weeks and now can be measured in months, sending my asthmatic husband indoors and going from occasional use of an inhaler to daily use. The cost in loss of tourism dollars, firefighting expenses, healthcare expenses, is certainly less than the cost of this bill.

I do empathize with the many farmers who spoke at the hearing, and think that some of the proceeds from the bill should help to offset the costs to them of modernizing their irrigation systems. The cost of kicking the climate change issue down the road is surely more than the cost of doing our best to find and implement solutions.

Sincerely,

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