

Randy Joseph, President
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House Committee HB 2020

Dear Committee Members,

I am a resident of Baker County where I have worked, farmed, ranched, managed our timber and built a wind farm, all with the help of my family.

In 2011 my family and I, with a lot of help from others, built Lime Wind. Lime Wind is a 3 MW wind farm situated on Bureau of Land Management lands in Baker County. Lime Wind is the first wind farm built in Baker County and the first wind farm built on public lands in Oregon. Lime Wind produces around 6,000 MWh of electricity annually which is the average amount of electricity used yearly for approximately 600 homes.

During the seven years of operations, 2012-2018, Lime wind has generated 41,636 MWh of electricity which has offset 44,760 tons of carbon pollution from coal. While this is not a great amount it was what we, as a family, were able to do and we did it to offset carbon dioxide emissions and do our part to hold back Climate Change.

I believe when we generate power here in rural Eastern Oregon with local ownership and the renewable resources we have, we can keep most of the wealth in our state and in our communities while providing carbon free energy to urban areas that need it. Clean Energy Jobs will increase demand for more renewable energy projects, and in turn, employ residents of Baker County and Eastern Oregon to bring those projects to life. These jobs are family-wage paying jobs that have to be done our region - they can't be outsourced. Clean Energy Jobs also contains a just transition provision, which will help train local residents to work in this exciting new clean energy economy.

Renewable energy generation by its self is not enough to hold back climate change, and therefore additional measures must be taken. That is why HB 2020 is so important at this time. The science is clear, time is running out, and we must act. Will we not get it perfect – no, but that cannot be an excuse to delay. We must move forward and adjust. And when it comes to **local** economic development, there's a tremendous opportunity before us. Our region of Eastern Oregon has more sun and wind than in other parts of the state, and our rural communities could benefit if there were incentives and investment dollars from policies like Clean Energy Jobs to build additional renewable energy projects in the region.

We will all pay a price for climate change. Some will pay with their lives, others with their homes, and the lucky with their wallets.

In Eastern Oregon the main threats we face are heat and drought; and when combined, wildfire. At some point we will need the State of Oregon to be there to help with drought and/or wildfire relief. Will the state be prepared?

Please support HB 2020.

Sincerely,



Randy Joseph