

Oregon Testimony on HB 2020: Graham Zimmerman

March 2, 2019

Senator Denbrow and Representative Power
Co-Chairs, Oregon Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction
900 Court Street NE
Salem Oregon 97301

RE: Testimony on House Bill 2020 from Professional Alpinist Graham Zimmerman

Good morning Senator Denbrow, Representative Power, and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction. My name is Graham Zimmerman, and I am a professional climber and small business owner here in Bend.

You may wonder what it means to be a professional climber— I make a living as an athlete through sponsorships with brands including Outdoor Research, Scarpa, and Petzl. I have first ascents from Alaska to Patagonia, feats that have resulted in grants, awards, and a role on the board of the American Alpine Club. And when I'm not on the side of a mountain, I am the co-founder and producer at Bedrock Film Works, a full service video production company.

Having spent the majority in my life exploring mountain environments, I have witnessed the impacts of climate change first-hand. These experiences, coupled with a degree in geography, have given me a great understanding of how our winters are warming, from glacial recession to a diminishing snowpack. As an alpinist, I climb a great deal of ice, and there is no doubt increased temperatures are melting away my sport.

As climbers, we have to pay close attention to the conditions around us, as our lives often depend on it. If you set an axe into a melting ice pillar, chances are it's not going to end well. We report back to our partners and our community, giving them critical information to make the best decisions possible. That's exactly what compels me to speak here today. Nature gives us warnings, and we need to respond—smartly and quickly, with no hidden agendas.

HB2020 is an opportunity to address our changing climate while growing our economy. As an athlete, I urge you to pass this bill for our environment. As a small business owner, I urge you to pass this bill as it will create thousands of good-paying jobs and add to household income across all tax brackets stimulating economic activity, and it will provide small businesses like mine energy bill savings through upgrades made affordable with investment funds.

Let's protect Oregon's \$16.4 billion dollar outdoor recreation economy and the 172,000 Oregonians it employs by asking polluters to pay a price for climate pollution and reinvest those funds into our local communities. In the mountains, conditions are changing for the worse. I urge you to take my community's report into account and make the best decision possible— passing HB2020. Thank you.