To the Joint Committee on HB2020,

As the parent of two young children, there is no issue more important to me than global warming. Our leaders have left action until so late in this crisis that we now have to take drastic action to have any meaningful effect. I hope the Joint Committee on HB2020 understands the profundity of their historical role in this moment and the impact this bill will have on the future of human civilization. The stakes are so high that this kind of dramatic language is warranted. The importance of every action on climate for the next 12 years cannot be overstated.

Please fight tooth-and-nail to make this the strongest bill possible. Do not kowtow to popular scare tactics. This bill is good for Oregon and great for our economy. The writing is on the wall: change is coming and coming fast. De-carbonizing Oregon companies only prepares them better to be more competitive on the national and world market moving forward. This is a win-win situation all around – unless the bill comes out as a pabulum of capitulation to political expediency.

The Oregonian has recently begun a series of upsetting articles showing that Oregon has the weakest environmental regulations in the country. We are not leaders, we are not the "greenest" state — we are the dirtiest. What an outrage and a violation of Oregonians' trust. And, furthermore it is being directly linked to business and corporate money in our state government. All eyes are on you. You have an opportunity in this moment to show the citizens of Oregon that the Oregon Legislature is capable of putting our health, our environment, and our economy first by passing a world-class climate bill. HB2020 stands to be first of its kind piece of legislation: a rigorous and powerful statement of hope for the future of Oregon and the world.

To that end, after careful review with a team of citizen climate activists, I specifically ask you to restore the percentages to the Climate Investment Fund (50% to impacted communities, 10% to tribes, 20% to natural and working lands, and 20% statewide). To restore the Citizen Advisory Committee. To include no exemptions (including aviation and marine). A maximum of 90% free allowances all entities. Limit offsets to 4% and keep half of environmental benefits in Oregon. No rollback of existing emissions standards. And radical decline of emissions by 2030.

I wish you strength and clarity of vision in your historic roles as protectors of the beautiful planet of which we live, the state in which we live and of our children's' futures—all of our future.

With gratitude and great hope, Alicia Cohen, Ph.D. 3300 Ridge Road Otis, Oregon