

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

My name is Benjamin Scandella, and I live in West Salem. I am writing to urge you to pass HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs Bill. This bill will allow Oregon to become a part of the solution to climate change and to meet its 2007 commitment to reduce carbon emissions to 75% of 1990 emissions by 2050. At the same time, it will help grow Oregon's economy. An independent economic study found that the bill would add thousands of new jobs to Oregon's economy and increasing GDP by 1% and wages by 0.5% by 2030 ([BEAR](#), 2019).

I work as a scientist for the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and, although I do not represent them in presenting this testimony, my views are informed by my work there. As I work to ensure the sustainable use of Oregon's groundwater resources, I am concerned that climate change will exacerbate the already challenging atmosphere around groundwater use. Reduced winter snowpack will diminish summer snowmelt and drive increased dependence on groundwater, especially to sustain the state's agricultural economy. Increased groundwater withdrawals can deplete streamflow and interfere with other groundwater users. An environment of such contentious water scarcity harms Oregonians and drives litigation that hampers the work of OWRD and depletes state resources. You can help to mitigate these and other impacts of climate change that will be felt by Oregonians by supporting this bill.

Fuel prices may increase somewhat, and I regret that this burden will be born disproportionately by Oregonians least able to afford it. However, this effect will likely be of a similar size to the volatility inherent in the international oil market and will incentivize development of technologies that reduce our dependence on oil in the long run. In the meantime, the effects of climate change are already being felt by and will be born disproportionately by those least able to cope with them and least responsible for causing it.

So, as you consider various amendments to this bill, I would ask you to limit the list of exemptions and accommodations. For example, please include a set-aside mechanism for voluntary renewable energy, to sustain demand for these voluntary renewable energy purchases that build on the compliance market. My utility should not be able to use *my* voluntary purchase of a higher "renewable energy" rate to offset their emissions from a regulatory perspective. As another example, I encourage you to minimize the unbundling of carbon credits with renewable energy certificates (RECs), because not all RECs reduce carbon emissions.

In summary, I encourage you to make Oregon a part of the solution to climate change, along with the 10 other states with successful cap-and-trade programs. Oregon's participation may be critical reaching the watershed moment when sufficient state-level support brings along the federal government and allows the U.S. to play a serious role in solving the problem internationally. By showing the world that it is possible here in Oregon, we will have a much larger impact than just the direct reductions in emissions from our State. Addressing climate change requires a large shift in our energy system that takes time, and if we want to make that shift in a way that benefits our economy, we have to start now.

Thank you,

Benjamin Scandella, Ph.D., G.I.T.