

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

Please pass HB 2020.

As the father of a 2-year-old girl, I am deeply worried about the world my wife and I have brought her into. I grew up in the Rogue Valley of Southern Oregon and now live in Portland, and have seen the periodic wildfires of my youth give way to three-month, statewide, suffocating smokescreens. Climate change has seemed distant—faraway ice melting, far-in-the-future speculation. Probably we didn't think we'd see tangible effects so close to home, so soon. Maybe we thought we could just avoid this issue and leave it for our grandchildren's grandchildren, who could solve it with some unknown technology. That was naïve and delusional. It's happening now—and serious effects of warming (dramatic weather events, species loss, shifting weather patterns that disrupt agriculture, and sea level rise) are already locked in, even if every single coal power plant and car in the world went silent tomorrow.

Our best science tells us we have just over a decade to make enormous reductions to our carbon emissions if we are to avoid catastrophic climate change -- the kind of change that has the potential to trigger mass migrations, fuel terrifying conflicts, and convulse entire civilizations.

We are all going to be judged by our children and grandchildren for what we are doing—or failing to do—today. At a moment when our nation has abdicated all leadership -- and even participation -- in global efforts to avoid climate catastrophe, Oregon has—with HB 2020—a chance to lead by example, and to show that the economy/environment dilemma is a false choice.

We know what carbon emissions are doing to our planet. The declining cap in HB 2020 guarantees a reduction of around 2 million metric tons of carbon pollution every year – the equivalent of taking 425,000 cars off the road. Our investments in clean energy jobs will reduce carbon pollution and create economic opportunity across the state.

You have an opportunity today to demonstrate the kind of leadership and foresight that we need as Oregonians—and frankly, as a species—if we are going to be equal to this challenge. We need bold action. We need concrete policies now if we have *any hope* of making the dramatic changes we will need to make over the course of the next decade. We must pass HB 2020 this year—and then keep pushing.

My daughter will turn 14 in the year 2030. If we miss opportunities like this—if we delay and water down and avoid taking action—what kind of world will we have consigned her and her generation to live in? We won't be able to claim ignorance. We know what direction we need to move in. Please take this step.

Thank you,  
Jesse Lichtenstein