

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

My name is Morgan Bechtold-Enge, and I have lived in Oregon my entire life. I'm originally from Southern Oregon, but recently moved to the Portland area. That being said, having lived here and several parts of Oregon, I can say that without a doubt just how precious our state is, and why it is so important that we work together to protect it. This is why I urge you to support HB 2020.

Having lived in the Rogue Valley for the majority of my life, I can say that in just 28 years, I personally have experienced first hand the effects of climate change. The Rogue Valley is known for its beautiful rolling hills and mountain sides. It's truly a spectacular place. However, when you can't see anything except for 25 feet in front of you because the smoke from wildfires is so bad, can you still call a place beautiful at that point? There is a reason my family and I relocated to Portland, and the smoke from the wildfires in Southern Oregon is a huge part of it. The problem is, you can't move away from climate change, the only thing you can do is work towards a solution that works for everyone. In my opinion Clean Energy Jobs is it.

We can all agree that Oregon is special, that being said it also has an incredible opportunity to be a leader for clean energy and for green solutions. Let's be bold. Let's progress Oregon's economy by investing hundreds of millions of dollars each year towards tens of thousands of good paying jobs. Not only good paying jobs, but jobs that work towards a cleaner and healthier future. A major investment like Clean Energy Jobs will go to not only reduce pollution but also revitalize our economy by investing in training programs for renewable energy. In addition it will mean new energy efficient infrastructure and homes which will lead to low income communities paying less in utilities as they will not need to use nearly as much energy. My mother always told me every dollar saved is a dollar earned, and in this case every dollar saved on energy is a dollar that stays in Oregon and can be invested here.

We know that this works! We have seen cap and invest programs be successful in 10 states already. They each have growing economies, falling CO2 emissions, stable energy prices and thousands of jobs created. As an example, California, one of the states to have made the decision to implement the cap and invest program, has seen dramatic economic growth, upwards of 26% in manufacturing output. As well as creating good, union manufacturing jobs in the least economically stable parts of the state. This clearly works, and will work for Oregon. With clean energy jobs already growing at 11% at an annual rate in Oregon, could you imagine what the growth projection would look like with even more investment.

I am not naive to say that this bill is perfect in its original form, and also know that many amendments will be made after this roadshow. That being said, one such suggestion that I propose moving forward is to be even more equitably thoughtful. It is always the least responsible for climate change that are the most dramatically impacted. Every inch of Oregon is precious and every single person living here has the divine right to clean water and clean air. We need to move away from sacrifice zones, as well as add percentages for each and every impacted community back into the bill.

In closing, **We do not have time to waste**, scientists have agreed that we have a short 11 years to dramatically reduce our carbon emissions in order to avoid cataclysmic effects of climate change. HB 2020, and Clean Energy Jobs, is our best option to act quickly. With our entire state being on fire year after year we already seeing the cost of inaction. Oregon has the

opportunity to be a leader and set an example for other states to follow in how to not only reduce our carbon footprint, but also create a strong and lasting economy. I urge you to be bold and to be brave in passing HB2020.

Thank you members of the committee, I appreciate you all taking the time to hear from all of the very concerned citizens of Oregon. I hope that when you all decide, you keep Oregon's best interest at heart for the many years to come.

All the best,

A Concerned Oregonian
Morgan Bechtold-Enge