

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

My name is Alex Hussey and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am senior at St. Mary's Academy and a volunteer student leader at outdoor school.

As a young person in this state I have watched our summers become smokier, the rivers become more polluted, and the weather become more erratic. I have also sat by wondering why countless generations have allowed this injustice to go by unresolved. I have wondered why the future of my generation is not important enough to call for immediate action. I have wondered why climate change can be minimized to simply a political controversy rather than a global threat, as if climate change is an opinion rather than a fact. Climate change is happening now. House Bill 2020 is the policy we need to address Oregon's contributions to this global problem. I am asking you today to implement it into law. I can't do this on my own, I need your help.

Our treatment of the environment and the way we have allowed minorities to be the most hurt by climate change reflects years of injustice. It is the privileged who are able to ignore climate change and live in a world where they believe they are unaffected by its effects. The majority of all proceeds must go to the communities most impacted by climate change to not only mitigate impacts but more importantly provide economic opportunities.

In order for this bill to be effective, all emitters need to be under the cap, no exemptions. I've been watching the committee meetings, and I was very upset when I saw natural gas companies claiming that they have to pass cost from this program onto consumers. These companies have annual profits in the millions and have benefited from polluting our atmosphere for free for years. My future is more important than corporate profit.

The Clean Energy Jobs bill provides Oregon with the opportunity to become a key example to this nation on how to create a prosperous clean energy economy. Fossil fuels are an unsustainable source of energy, that is why the fastest growing jobs in our country are in renewable energy like wind and solar. The future of our country and our world is free of fossil fuels. Oregon is often looked to as an environmental leader, let's uphold that responsibility and pass this bill.

The cap and invest policy seen in House Bill 2020 has been worked on for more than a decade by Oregon lawmakers. It is a policy to cap and price climate pollution from the largest emitters in the state, and reinvest the proceeds into Oregon's clean energy economy to create good-paying jobs and make our air cleaner.

With Clean Energy Jobs, we can employ an array of Oregonians, with no need for outsourcing. In every state and province with cap-and-invest there are: growing economies, falling emissions, stable energy prices, and thousands of jobs created. History is our proof, that this method works.

I take public transit, am vegetarian, and use reusable products to limit my carbon footprint, but it feels pointless when 100 companies are responsible for 84% of Oregon's carbon emissions. I am doing my part, it's time that they do theirs.

