

From: [Shari Lane](#)
To: [ACER Exhibits](#)
Subject: HB 2020 Written Testimony
Date: Thursday, March 7, 2019 11:33:41 PM

Dear Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction:

My name is Shari Lane, and I am writing in support of HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs bill.

For decades, we were warned that we would face environmental disaster, unless we changed our behavior. That disaster is now imminent. (*See, e.g.*, Chris Mooney and Brady Dennis, "The world has just over a decade to get climate change under control, U.N. scientists say," Washington Post, 10/7/2018).

As the mother of two marvelous young adults – who hopes to be a grandmother someday! – I grieve the fact that we have failed so egregiously to be good stewards of the world future generations will inherit.

As an Oregonian who loves the natural beauty of our state, living in a rural area, I worry about my neighbors, who struggle to keep family farms viable in the face of weather extremes, the loss of pollinators, pollution, and other direct and indirect effects of our failure to address environmental problems in a systematic and effective manner.

And as an attorney who advises business owners and managers, I am distressed about the future of our economy if we continue to take a short view, looking only to minimize any immediate cost or the hassle of change. It comes down to this: all our legislative changes to improve the lives of Oregonians and support Oregon businesses will be useless if forest fires, drought, pollution, and the related effects on agriculture and health make Oregon unlivable.

We cannot fix the world's climate problems by ourselves, but we can take bold strides to prepare Oregon for the future, and HB 2020 does just that: the bill creates good jobs, supports farmers, and plans for future generations. Better still, it imposes cap and trade gradually, while providing support to businesses in the process – the goal is not to drive out business from our state, but to assist businesses in becoming good *green* citizens, and help individuals adapt to the future.

I truly hope that we Oregonians will make this decision based on what is best for Oregon. Renewable and sustainable energy will have to be our focus in the future, and attempts to sidetrack those efforts should be ignored. Better yet, fear-mongering predictions that HB 2020 will destroy our economy should be rebutted with facts:

- 10 states already have successful cap-and-invest programs running now. After years of experience, all of them have: growing economies, falling CO2 emissions, stable energy prices, and thousands of jobs created.
- Since cap-and-trade, California has outperformed Texas and the rest of the U.S. in manufacturing output, growing in real terms by 26%. California's carbon price has also created good, union manufacturing jobs in the poorest parts of the state.

See, e.g., https://www.rggi.org/sites/default/files/uploads/Proceeds/RGGI_Proceeds_Report_2016.pdf; http://acadiacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Acadia_Center_RGGI-Report_Outpacing-the-Nation.pdf; <https://www.ceres.org/sites/default/files/Fact%20Sheets%20or%20misc%20files/RGGI%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>; https://www.analysisgroup.com/globalassets/uploadedfiles/content/insights/publishing/analysis_group_rggi_report_april_2018.pdf; <https://www.c2es.org/content/california-cap-and-trade/>; <https://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=10388context=cleepubs>

Passing HB 2020 is good representation of your constituents. Oregonians want to see concerted, effective action. (*See, e.g.*, Pete Danko, "Poll Results: Bring on the Cap and Trade," Portland Business Journal, 2/13/2017, showing 95% of respondents are ready for cap and trade; lawsuit by Oregon students; polls by Yale, Stanford, and George Mason universities, showing the majority of Americans are concerned about climate change, and 68% of Americans favor carbon tax on companies and/or cap and trade <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/laser-talks/polling-data/>).

Last but not least, I would like to urge the members of the committee not only to support HB 2020, but also to restore several key provisions that were removed from its original form:

- Citizen Oversight Committee: We need Oregonians keeping an eye on the programs and processes, and having a continuing voice
- Set-asides: in order to realize the equity goals established by the bill, the revenues generated by the programs should be targeted for the affected communities, as originally planned
- No carve-out for the Covanta incinerator: the incinerator causes significant pollution, which disproportionately affects the low-income populations living nearby
- No exemptions for fossil fuel industries or other companies that emit significant greenhouse gases: the biggest polluters and carbon-creators must be included, or the program will not have an opportunity to succeed. We all – including big business – benefit from a stable Oregon economy and environment, so we all – including big business – need to be covered by the provisions, but most particularly those industries that release the most greenhouse gases.

We are facing tough challenges, but Oregonians are tough people – we can do this! Please pass HB 2020, and give us a fighting chance.

Sincerely,

Shari Lane
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