

From: [Suzanne Gauen](#)
To: [JCCR Exhibits](#)
Cc: MichaelDembrow@oregonlegislature.gov; [Rep. Smith Warner](#)
Subject: Testimony: Pass a strong HB 2020
Date: Friday, March 8, 2019 8:53:46 AM

Dear Senator Dembrow and Representative Powers,

My name is Suzanne Gauen, a small town Oregon native now living in Portland; mother of a teenager, wife to a fantastic human, and pharmacist by trade.

I urge the Oregon Legislature to pass a strong carbon reduction cap and invest plan in HB 2020.

Climate change is a crisis. According to scientists, we have precious little time left to reel in our carbon emissions and try to prevent an uninhabitable world. No single state or country can solve this issue alone. We need an aggressive global response spread across cities, states and nations. According to the Global Carbon Project, if we had started global decarbonization in 2000, we would have had to cut emission by only about 2% per year to prevent two degrees of warming. But carbon emission are still increasing. We must take bold, aggressive action now to keep the earth livable for our children and their children.

Oregon can be a leader in this collective battle by passing a strong cap and invest program. While cutting carbon emissions in a stepwise fashion and transitioning to cleaner energy, it will diversify and strengthen our economy, create jobs, and lower energy costs to families and businesses. These projections come from an independent economic study presented to the Oregon legislature in 2019. Ten states have cap and invest programs running, including California, which has had its program in place for over 10 years. Its economy has been booming with related job creation across the state.

The cap and invest program will also reduce pollution. As a resident of northeast Portland, which has terrible air quality, and as a pharmacist concerned about pollution's link to the development of cancers and contribution to lung disease, this is extremely important to me.

It is possible there will be downstream consequences from implementation of this bill, but we can make adjustments to address these effects. We will not be able to make adjustments if sea levels rise, claiming coastal communities around the world and causing massive human migration; or if our oceans are too warm to sustain life, causing mass extinction.

The Oregon Legislature cannot be complacent. Legislators must take bold, brave, aggressive action. You must use science as your guide. Do not not deterred by those who express fear of change. The future of my child, your children and all children on this beautiful planet is at stake.

Pass HB 2020.

Thank you,
Suzanne Gauen, RPh