

March 5, 2019

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

My name is Lois Hoeffler, I have lived in Southern Oregon since 2014, and I currently reside in West Medford. I am writing in support of HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs bill.

The Clean Energy Jobs bill would benefit our climate and thus our economy. In 2018 the Oregon Shakespeare Festival lost millions of dollars due to cancelled performances because of smoke. Likewise, the Britt lost revenue due to moving its Pops concert to North Medford High School because of smoke, and it had to refund or extend credit because North Medford High School did not have the seating capacity. It is estimated by Travel Oregon that Southern Oregon lost about \$52 million in tourist dollars in 2018 due to smoke. In 2018, Crater Lake National Park saw decreases in park attendance in June, July and August —14, 22 and 16 percent, respectively compared to last year (2017). Crater Lake is a major tourist attraction in Jackson County. Real estate agents experienced a decline in high-end home sales during the months of constant smoke.

But enough of the losses.

There would be gain. At the beginning HB 2020 is estimated to create 50,000 good-paying jobs in Oregon and transitioning to cleaner energy would lower costs for people and business. Major investment will reduce pollution and create more transportation options. Cap-and-invest programs are successful elsewhere. All 10 states have growing economies, falling CO2 emissions, and stable energy prices. 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.

Another benefit of stopping climate change is better health. Our hospitals in Southern Oregon are filled with people suffering from breathing disorders from the smoke in the summer. This costs millions of dollars in lost productivity.

In the years that I have lived in the Rogue Valley I have seen the smoke in the valley increase from several weeks in 2014 to more in 2015 to extreme amounts of smoke in 2017 and

2018. My livelihood was impacted by the fires and smoke in Southern Oregon in 2017 and 2018. In 2017 I had an independent contractor sales job that involved driving to Brookings and meeting with people in their homes. Except that for the month of August I was unable to meet with them because a good percentage of them were evacuated because of the threat of the Chetco Bar Fire. Sales is a job where meeting people when they express interest is crucial. I could not meet with them. In 2018 I worked in sales at a local cemetery in Medford and the smoke was so bad that I realized I could no longer work outside in Medford in the summer and had to seek other livelihood. Climate change has directly impacted my livelihood and standard of living. It has also impacted my quality of life. I moved here to be outdoors in the summer and that has become impossible in August and into September for the last several years.

We have little time to impact these negative trends with emissions reduction. Clean Energy Jobs is a policy that has been in the making for over a decade. We must act now and pass HB 2020 this year.

Sincerely,

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