

Members of the JCCR Committee:

This message is directed all members of the committee, but I am particularly addressing it to the Democratic members.

The Clean Energy Jobs bill must pass this year, but not only that, it must pass in the strongest possible form. It must not contain loopholes that exempt large polluting corporations from its provisions. For example: calling the Covanta incinerator a renewable source of energy and thus exempting it from HB 2020's limits on greenhouse gas emissions is not going to enable Oregon to meet its climate change goals. As the young people who are going to have to live with the consequences of this pollution keep telling anyone who will listen, Oregon must do all it possibly can to mitigate the worst aspects of climate change. Economic objections, while important, do not rise to the importance of protecting the livability of our planet.

Now, to the Democrats: you keep asking us to elect more Democrats so we can have more progressive policies at both the state and the federal levels. Well, you have a super-majority. If you cannot overcome the pressure from large corporate polluters and deliver a strong version of HB 2020 now, any faith the public has in you will quickly wane. We're watching you and depending on you to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Peter Bergel  
1850 Saginaw St S  
Salem, OR 97302