

Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction  
Oral Testimony in support of HB 2020

I am John Nelson, a resident of The Dalles. I support the passage of HB 2020, the Clean energy Jobs Bill. It is my opinion that this bill, if enacted, will be a benefit to both our economy and the climate. It will propel Oregon into a green renewable energy future and position our state to be competitive nationally as an economic leader in the 21st century.

In respect to climate change, My wife and I are grandparents to three grandchildren who are more likely to experience the harsh effect of climate change if we do not act now to reduce CO2 emissions. In the past 10 years we have experienced in our region of this state, an increasing frequency of fires caused in part by a changing climate that have negatively affected our economy, our health, and our safety.

How can the revenues and proceeds from the use of this program be spent wisely? I recommend that the funds be reinvested in Oregon for needs in our communities that have to do with climate change or that work to reduce carbon emissions. For example in The Dalles we suffer and are in danger because of major forest and grassland fires annually - so use the funds to manage forests, prevent wildfires, and create defensible spaces. Use funds to expand the work we've begun to build a reliable transit system in the Eastern Gorge connecting cities here with each other and to the Portland metro area, and then to build affordable housing in The Dalles and other rural communities near their transit or employment centers.

We have an urgent need to pass HB 2020. We need to act now. If we do not, we face having to live on a planet far less suitable for human habitation and for all living organisms on Earth. We are all interconnected and dependent on this planet's living systems. It's all we have. We owe it to future generations to take action now.

John Nelson

Resident of The Dalles,