

Co-Chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Power, and members of the Committee: my name is Dr. Ann Turner. I am a resident of Portland. I worked for more than 20 years at Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center in Washington and Yamhill Counties with underserved and vulnerable populations. I am here to urge you to pass the strongest possible version of House Bill 2020.

We only have 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe, according to the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) in their report released a few months ago. Global warming will disproportionately impact the poor, communities of color, and tribal people. We have already begun to experience its effects with wildfires destroying thousands of acres of forests and making our air quality unhealthy to breathe.

The time for taking small steps has passed. We must enact legislation that will reduce carbon emissions in Oregon quickly to protect all Oregonians, especially our most vulnerable populations, from the devastation of warming our climate more than 1.5C. The current bill sets a goal of reducing Oregon's carbon footprint to 45% below 1990 emissions levels by 2035. 2035 is beyond the 12 year mark. We must do better and increase that reduction to 55% by 2035 and add a goal of 25% below 1990 levels by 2025. The final target set by HB 2020 is 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. It must be 100% by 2050.

Once enacted, this policy must have accountable governance for both rulemaking and oversight. In order to protect communities most impacted by climate change, these communities must have representation on the Board or Commission. The Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) initiative passed last November was envisioned and written by communities of color. HB 2020 should model its governance after PCEF's governance structure to assure that governance is broad, inclusive and equitable and not left in the hands of one person.

This bill should not exempt major emitters of greenhouse gases forever. These include forestry, agriculture, marine, aviation and railroad industries. In particular, the Jordan Cove LNG Export Terminal and Pacific Connector fracked gas pipeline must be covered and given no exemptions. The Terminal would be located in Coos Bay and the Pipeline crosses Douglas, Jackson and Klamath Counties, including tribal lands. The population of these counties already has health indicators below average for Oregon. Emissions from the Jordan Cove project will further degrade the health of these communities.

We must guarantee a Just Transition for impacted communities in this legislation. In the 2018 cap and trade bill, 50% of the Climate Investments Fund was allocated to impacted communities. This bill needs to allocate at least 50% or more of this fund to receive investments in clean energy transitions, jobs and job training. This can only strengthen Oregon and its most vulnerable communities.

We must not allow electric utilities 100% freely allocated allowances. My own electric company, Pacific Power, is still using fossil fuel to generate electricity—coal 63% and fracked gas 15%. Electric companies must transition to renewable energy sources more quickly.

Finally, as a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility for many years, I am passionate about the fact that Nuclear Energy is not safe and not renewable. The bill must state "Renewable Energy" Investments only, rather than "Carbon-Free" or "Low-Carbon" because these can be used to fund Nuclear Power and Forest Biomass. Use of biomass incentivizes clear-cuts and logging which already account for 35% of our carbon emissions.

Thank you for considering these changes to this important bill.

Sincerely,

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