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March 8, 2019

Senator Michael Dembrow
Representative Karin Power
900 Court St. NE,
Salem Oregon 97301

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

The Corvallis City Council strongly endorses HB 2020. Corvallis's Vision Statement, Climate Action Plan, and Resolution 2015-15, which endorsed carbon pricing, all support this bill.

We know that addressing climate change is critical for the future of our state and our community. HB 2020 will lead us on a path to creating a strong clean energy economy by putting a price on major greenhouse gas emissions sources, while funding clean energy innovation in communities and industries across the state.

The Corvallis City Council does have several concerns.

First, we want to see some language retained in the final draft. We believe that the interim target of 45% below 1990 levels is essential to measure progress. We are also opposed to any free allowances for new fossil fuel infrastructure and any additional allowances for natural gas companies.

Second, we would like to see a few details strengthened. The 2018 version of the Clean Energy Jobs Bill included percentages to determine where investments will go, including 50% to benefit the communities that are experiencing the greatest impacts of climate change – primarily low-income individuals, rural communities, and communities of color. That has been removed. We believe it should be retained. If that is not feasible, then the language “a majority of funds” could be used instead. Also, we are concerned that the concept of a 21 person, state wide, advisory board has been removed. We would like to see that returned to the final draft. State wide citizen governance is essential for the success of this program.

Please pass HB 2020 this Session. We do not have time to wait any longer.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Biff Traber
Mayor

c: Senator Sara Gelser
Representative Dan Rayfield
City Legislative Committee