

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

We are Michael Fox and Debby Garman, longtime residents of Oregon, living in Hillsboro for the past 14 years. It's very important to both of us that you pass HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs bill.

An independent economic study presented to the legislature in 2019 shows HB 2020 will benefit our economy: green energy jobs have proven themselves as a beneficial economic catalyst in areas where they have been given an opportunity to grow. Since cap-and-trade, neighboring 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. In Oregon, this new law will add to household income across all tax brackets, with the most going to low-income households because it will create thousands of good-paying jobs, and the transition to cleaner energy will lower costs for people and businesses. One of the best parts of the bill is that it guarantees 2.2 million metric tons of pollution will be reduced every two years. This will help the environment and the health of many Oregonians, including a number of our friends and family who suffer from asthma; in both of the last two summers, they weren't able to go outside during the extreme smoke caused by wildfires that are worsened by climate change. Several friends are still struggling with long-term respiratory consequences. In 2017, wildfires caused Oregon to lose \$51.5 million in visitor spending, and the US Forest Service is now spending more than half its budget on fighting fires. One of our state's premier tourist attractions, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, is struggling

financially, in significant part due to lost ticket sales during our new normal "smoke season." Oregon agricultural production and profit is already being impacted by reduction in winter mountain snow pack leading to reduced available summer water; this will only get worse as time goes on.

Last year a super credible new report came out that shows we have at most 11 years to reduce emissions before our climate fate is sealed. We have children, grandchildren, and a new great grandchild. Our children and following generations shouldn't have to grow up in fear of climate change and the cataclysmic results projected by the vast majority of *real* scientists as Earth's temperatures rise.

Please be bold and plan to make this just the first step to a better future. Oregon has the opportunity to lead and position our state to be a clean energy economic engine in the 21st century. Oregon and the rest of the world deserve leaders that address this existential crisis not only for humans, but also for hundreds of other species that share this planet with humans. Please do everything in your power to protect their future. Passing the Clean Energy Jobs bill this year is an important small first step.

Thank you,
Debby Garman and Michael Fox, Concerned Oregonians



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