

From: [Claudia Denton](#)
To: [JCCR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Public Testimony for HB2020
Date: Friday, March 8, 2019 4:25:43 PM

RE: Oregon State Legislature HB2020

Hello,

I'd like to submit public testimony for HB2020 Cap and Invest. Please see my text below. I also spoke in person during the 2/22 Springfield hearing, but was not able to finish my last paragraph due to the time constraints.

Thank you.

Good afternoon,

My name is Claudia Denton and I am a resident of Springfield, the chair of our local Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and work as a sustainability consultant with Good Company in Eugene. Like you, I am here to listen to my community's thoughts, and like you, it will shape my future and my family's future. I am very supportive of HB2020 for Cap-and-Invest as a method for carbon reduction in Oregon.

I have learned a lot from both my work and formal education -- based in science and careful analysis. Climate change is a major part of our work at our firm -- we develop Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Climate Action Plans, and look at both adaptation and mitigation planning for governments, infrastructure agencies, and corporations alike across Oregon and the U.S. Effectively, we aim to prepare our clients for what's to come and how to avoid it. The health of our communities, environment, and economy are at the core of our work.

I've heard many misleading statements about climate and climate action over the years. I heard several testimonies today discussing wildfires, and I assure you, the vast majority of our emissions do not come from wildfires. It comes from energy and fuel -- for transportation, heating and cooling our buildings, but overwhelmingly from production of food and goods. Wildfire is an effect, not a cause, of climate change. People love to point fingers at China, but truth be told we are also enormous creators of emissions, and we are the ones purchasing those goods. I hear legitimate fear about increased costs burdening our low-income communities and specialty industries. These are important questions to explore. But as others have said, what we do now does not have to be perfect, but we need to do something. And yes, it is an emergency. As a woman before me said, I will gladly pay a little more -- even a lot more -- for my products knowing that we are producing and transporting them more responsibly. **If my monthly expenses increase it will be rightfully so.** And I do not say that lightly -- my family of four live on a modest, single income, mine. Those that have the means to create change, after already exacerbating the issue, should be the ones to make an impact. **We are those people.**

There is so much more I would like to say today, but I will end with this. This should not be a hotly

contested issue -- this is in our global best interest. The planet does not care what happens, but we need to save ourselves by evaluating our priorities. We currently do not have the luxury of relying on a national effort, so Oregon needs to make a decision on its own. **We are going through growing pains, and we can either prepare for it now or pay for it later. If we do nothing now it will become much more expensive.** Climate Change is a known threat that will hurt all of us, all our children, but really our most vulnerable community members and families the most. Let's be more concerned about that. We have more than 100 years and millions of data points that 99% of scientists agree upon. Let's follow their leads, and let's lead by example. This is not the time for low-hanging fruit -- it's time to address Oregon's significant sources of emissions.

Thank you,
Claudia Denton