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To: [JCCR Exhibits](#)
Subject: HB 2020 testimony
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Co-chairs Dembrow and Power, and members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

Re: HB 2020 - strongly support

I deeply appreciate the extensive work you, and others before you, have devoted to addressing the very serious climate changes we face. It is hard to look clearly at the data and projections. I honor your courage and commitment to craft this legislation, especially on behalf of the younger and future generations.

For over four decades, a concerted effort by vested interests have tried to obscure, misinform and confuse elected officials and the public about the effects of fossil fuel use. It is understandable that some Oregonians remain unaware, uninterested or deny the seriousness of what is happening on our planet. Individuals, businesses, faith communities, educational and governmental institutions are voluntarily working on ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon. We have seen progress toward meeting the 2007 goals set by the Legislature. However, these efforts are insufficient, and it is imperative the Legislature act to require the largest emitters be accountable to Oregonians.

Recent reports from the IPCC, the US National Climate Assessment, NASA and many other bodies emphasize the necessity to take strong, immediate action. It is clear that climate change is impacting many areas of the world, every corner of the nation, and throughout Oregon. The past 5 years were the warmest in recorded history, the CO2 concentration in the atmosphere crossed the 400 parts per million line in 2014 for the first time in at least 2.5 million years, oceans are warming and acidifying, glaciers and icesheets are melting even faster than predicted, extreme heat, storms, drought, wildfires, coral bleaching and sea level rise are bringing tragic death and destruction. Oregon's contribution may be small, but we must responsibly do our part and become part of the solution. I urge effective legislative action this year.

At the Medford hearing Feb 23, I heard fears of drastic impacts on individuals and our economy expressed. I wonder if those commenters read the bill. I support the bill sections that protect and support the most vulnerable: utility subsidies, weatherization and energy efficiency programs, job transition support for displaced workers. I laud the the bill's targeting of investments in impacted communities, rural and tribal economies, resting on social and economic justice principles.

Change is challenging for many, but we must transition away from fossil fuel dependence to a clean energy economy. We have other examples to learn from. As you know, California and the 9 states of RGGI have set caps on emissions. They have all found reduced emissions, while their economies have grown faster than average. Two more states are preparing to join RGGI, which actually experienced lower electricity rates after

establishing a cap. When the fuel source is free (sun, wind, geothermal heat) unlike coal, oil or gas, once the initial development occurs, the cost of operation declines.

The recent E2 report showed Oregon already has over 55,000 clean energy jobs, spread throughout all 36 counties, with 11,000 jobs in rural areas. Investments made from HB 2020's permits would help speed the clean energy transition already happening, strengthening local economies, particularly bringing more living-wage jobs to rural areas. This will be a boon for construction, heating and cooling contractors, solar installers, architects, engineering firms, designers, and all the related support positions for sales, advertising, accounting, and custodial staff. The BEAR study reported that Oregon will be stronger economically if HB 2020 is passed than it would be without this legislation. Rural counties would benefit most, which would help to equalize and stabilize our state.

Many years of work have gone into shaping the legislation before you. This cap, trade and invest mechanism has emerged as the best policy for Oregon. It is a flexible, market-based program that will allow industrial emitters to comply in the most efficient, low-cost way possible while still guaranteeing reductions in pollution. Companies will have flexibility for how they cut emissions and the cap gives certainty that emissions reductions will be achieved. By reinvesting the proceeds in clean energy solutions in Oregon and joining the North American Carbon Market, there will be even more options for reducing pollution.

Please do everything in your power to protect the coming generations. Passing a strong HB 2020 is the first step.

Thank you,

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