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March 8, 2019

Co-Chairs Sen. Dembrow and Rep. Power
Co-Vice Chairs Sen. Bentz and Rep. Smith
Members of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2020

Dear Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Committee Members:

1000 Friends of Oregon appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2020. We are grateful for the diligent work that has gone into crafting HB 2020 and the legislature's commitment to addressing climate change and its impacts.

We have only a narrow timeframe within which to take meaningful and effective action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate the effects of climate change, and protect vulnerable communities. How Oregon transitions from fossil fuel dependence to a clean energy economy matters. Therefore, as you consider amendments to HB 2020, we urge you to keep these principles and objectives in mind:

- HB 2020 must advance environmental and climate justice efforts in all Oregon communities. Proceeds should prioritize investments in rural, tribal, and urban low-income impacted communities, to reduce greenhouse gases and increase climate resilience.
- Oregon must achieve a strong and equitable clean energy economy that caps and permanently reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Policies must be science-based to ensure we achieve updated state climate goals and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 45% by 2035 and at least 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels.
- HB 2020 should invest in carbon-absorbing forestry and agricultural practices and in those who work in these economies, to protect land for food and fiber production and natural resources, reduce carbon, and improve economic and health outcomes. Therefore, HB 2020 must:
 - Invest in sustainable, carbon sequestration forest management practices.
 - Invest in and incentivize energy-saving and carbon sequestration practices on agricultural lands.
 - Ensure clean energy workforce opportunities for rural Oregonians, particularly those of low-income, people of color, and in resource-based economies.
- Almost 40% of Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions come out of the tailpipes of cars and light trucks, generated mostly in the state's eight major urban areas. HB 2020 should require and

invest in transportation planning in these “metropolitan planning areas” for walkable, bikeable neighborhoods; transit; and communities where affordable homes, stores, schools, and other opportunities are closer together.

- HB 2020 should recognize the additional challenges for rural communities of transitioning to a clean energy economy, and particularly for those of lower income. These Oregonians have few, if any, transportation alternatives and will be most impacted by any transportation cost increases. Therefore, HB 2020 should:
 - Increase transit investments in rural areas.
 - Provide resources to transition drivers from rural communities to less-emissions-intensive vehicles and modes.
 - Invest in research for and transition to cleaner off-road farm and forest equipment.
- Establish a strong oversight structure. Program design and implementation must be transparent and accessible to all Oregonians and created by representatives with geographic and demographic diversity. We recommend a commission structure, with most representatives from historically underrepresented communities, including lower income Oregonians, tribal counties, those engaged in farming and forestry, rural communities, as well as experts in climate science and emissions reductions
- Rulemaking and implementation of this bill should be transparent and include multiple stakeholders and opportunities to engage. Processes and procedures that are created as a result of the bill, such as offset programs, should be designed to be clear, concise and understandable and resources made available to facilitate access and success.

HB 2020 continues Oregon’s national leadership in creating effective and innovative solutions for shared challenges.

Sincerely,



Mary Kyle McCurdy
Deputy Director