



Platform, Resolution and Legislation Committee
Climate, Energy and Transport Study Group
Multnomah Democrats

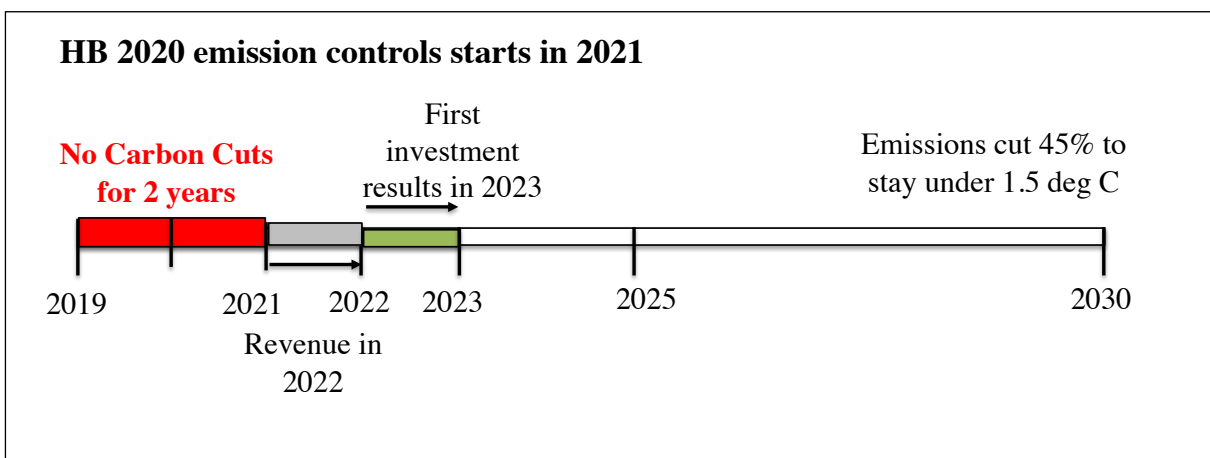
March 28, 2019

To: Rep. Ken Helm, Chair, **House Committee on Energy and Environment**
Rep. E. Werner Reschke, Vice Chair
Rep. Sheri Schouten, Vice Chair
Rep. Lynn Findley, Member
Rep. Andrea Salinas
Rep. Janeen Sollman
Rep. Marty Wilde
Rep. Anna Williams
Rep. Jack Zika

Re: HB 2855 Emissions Jurisdiction for the Oregon Public Utility Commission

Dear Legislators:

The Democratic Party of Multnomah County is increasingly aware of the consequence of complex bills when passed by the Legislature: enactment is deferred by years of rulemaking. When Oregon has never met a climate goal, such a delay is particularly counterproductive. By the time we reach 2030 best science calls for reduction of carbon emissions of at least 45% of emissions today. Regrettably, more delay means more climate damage on the way.



Oregon Senator Cliff Bentz, in discussing HB 2020, puts it plainly. “The value of this bill is its ability to convince other people to follow Oregon’s lead. And this means we have to get it right. It’s not going to save the world. What saves the world is other people saying, ‘Hey, Oregon figured out how to do it.’”

One way to get it right is a simple extension of the mission of the Oregon Public Utilities Commission to consider least carbon emissions along with least cost in utility planning. This avoids inaction on emissions. This is the concept for HB 2855 and it can be enacted in a matter of months not years. Utilities produce 46% of Oregon’s carbon emissions regulated under the terms of HB 2020. [Emission Sources Covered by the Cap](#)

To strengthen the language in the current version of HB 2855 Multnomah Democrats endorse the following amendment that adds a formal definition of best available science:

“Best available science” means “science that (A) maximizes the quality, objectivity, and integrity of information, including statistical information; (B) uses peer-reviewed and publicly available data; and (C) clearly documents and communicates risks and uncertainties in the scientific citations.” [RESTORE Act; Subtitle F of Public Law 112-141](#)

Best Regards, Multnomah Dems Climate Action Team

Members:

Austen Lethbridge-Scarl, Ethan Scarl, Lisa Morrison, Ron Rhew, Tracy Farwell, Debbie Gordon, Suzanne Moore, Mary Hutchings.