



April 8, 2019

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**Oregon Progressive Party  
Position on Bill at 2019  
Session of Oregon Legislature:**

**SB 928: Support, if amended as suggested by Steve Schell**

Dear Committee:

The Oregon Progressive Party would support this bill, if it were amended in the manner suggested by Steve Schell. The bill:

- Establishes Oregon Climate Authority.
- Establishes Oregon Climate Board.
- Transfers greenhouse gas reporting program from DEQ to Oregon Climate Authority.
- Abolishes State Department of Energy; transfers its duties, functions and powers related to issuance of loans for small scale local energy projects to Oregon Business Development Department and its remaining duties, functions and powers to Oregon Climate Authority.
- Modifies permissible uses of energy supplier assessment.
- Abolishes Sustainability Board and Oregon Global Warming Commission.
- Establishes Energy Program Review Task Force.

Combating climate change requires immediate and concerted action. This bill seems to be a backstop, if HB 2020 is not enacted.

Our support for this bill depends upon adoption of the amendments suggested by Steve Schell. The Legislature should take advantage of his long history of service on Oregon's volunteer boards and commissions. Of particular importance is his suggestion that "stakeholders" not be awarded official positions on the state board because of their economic interests in the subject matter. That is a reason for such persons not to serve on such a board. SB 928, as currently written, guarantees that board members will have serious economic conflicts of interest. It is the opposite of how a state board should be designed.

We oppose the -1 amendment, which would cut the maximum assessment on energy suppliers to fund Department of Energy functions from 0.375 of their gross revenues to only 0.15 of their gross revenues. This is a 60% reduction in available funding. This appears to contradict the conclusion that combating climate change is an urgent task.

**Oregon Progressive Party**

**Daniel Meek**  
authorized legal representative  
[dan@meek.net](mailto:dan@meek.net)  
503-293-9021

