



Platform, Resolution and Legislation Committee
Climate Action Study Group
Multnomah Democrats

4 June 2019

Before the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

To: Co-Chair Senator Kathleen Taylor
Co-Chair Representative Jeff Reardon
Members of the Subcommittee

Re: HB 2020 Carbon Cap and Trade

The Democratic Party of Multnomah County is increasingly aware of the consequences to Oregon's economy from continued damage to our natural resources stemming from inaction on climate. Worse, when we take action on our limited scale, any beneficial results are diluted by the civic inaction we see from other states and nations.

Nonetheless, we can cut carbon emissions, relieve stress to vulnerable and underserved communities, sequester carbon, and mitigate impacts to our natural assets with the full variety of provisions already encompassed by HB 2020.

We urge you to leave this bill intact. We are well aware of climate protection bills that have been rendered less effective in California by last minute lobby tactics engaged by economically advantaged carbon fuels incumbents. In its present form this bill constitutes non-partisan messaging as voiced by a well-known leading Oregon legislator, "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.' "

Since the Paris 2 deg C climate goals are no longer adequate according to latest and best science, and HB 2020 goals are not responsive to the 1.5 deg C goals set by IPCC SR15, any effort to weaken this bill would be categorically unjustified and would not serve the interests of Oregonians who depend on our abundant natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter,

Multnomah County Democrats Climate Action: Austen Lethridge-Scarl, Ron Rhew, Lisa Morrison, Mary Hutchings, Debbie Gordon, Tracy Farwell.