

Kate Brown
Governor



Oregon Commission for Women
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Testimony in Support of HB 2020 A
Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources
June 5, 2019, HR F, 5 pm

Co-Chair Senator Taylor, Co-Chair Representative Reardon, Senators Frederick and Girod, and Representatives Hayden, Holvey, Neron, and Brock Smith:

The Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW) strongly supports HB 2020 establishing the Carbon Policy Office within Oregon Department of Administrative Services. It directs the new Office to adopt the Oregon Climate Action Program by rule, and provides significant ways for community voice and oversight to be part of the structure of policy and advisory bodies established under the bill. The Commission is being joined by the Oregon Commissions for Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, and Hispanic Affairs in support of our constituent communities.

By joining with communities in California, Washington, and other locations, the proposed legislation promises a variety of environmental, health, and economic benefits for vulnerable communities across the breadth of our state. The health benefits of reduced carbon will protect elderly people, our children, and other vulnerable people whether they reside in the rural areas of our state or in areas adjacent to industrial and transportation corridors. Toxic exposures to carbon pollution threaten the health of pregnant women, small children and future generations of Oregonians. Offsets for carbon absorbing areas and activities promise to benefit areas of rural Oregon, especially as we would be joined in a regional community where offsetting carbon activities can be verified and the value of those returned to our regional ecosystems and local communities. Also, many of our state agencies have already positioned their programs to offer education and training for jobs in the clean energy economy. Oregon is engaging the task of providing the labor resources necessary to support the clean energy economy. This bill will protect that early investment and reward foresight.

Women, children and all Oregon families in every area of our state stand to experience the benefits of better health, access to jobs in a clean energy economy, and protection of our carbon absorbing lands and activities unique to Oregon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Barbara Spencer, OCFW Chair

Chanpone Sinlapasai-Okamura, OCAPIA Chair

Irma Linda Castillo, OCHA Chair

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