


From the Desk of
Roy Nossje HD42
June 17, 2019



**PORTLAND
BUSINESS ALLIANCE**
Commerce · Community · Prosperity

June 14, 2019

Honorable Speaker Kotek and Members of the Oregon House of Representatives,

The Portland Business Alliance (the Alliance) is greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce and represents the largest, most diverse network of businesses in the region. The Alliance advocates for business at all levels of government to support commerce, community health and the region's overall prosperity. We represent more than 1,900 members, from 27 counties, 13 states and virtually every industry sector. More than 80% of our members are small businesses.

We write today to inform you that the Alliance is neutral on HB 2020. However, we also wish to convey our support for the collaborative process that led to the greatly improved version of HB 2020, which you are considering today.

HB 2020 is extremely complex, and impacts every industry sector differently. Dozens of our members have been at the table working with legislators and advocates to address numerous, unique concerns in different ways. This variety of interests and concerns makes it extremely difficult for the Alliance to take a firm position on the bill.

However, we want to affirm that the Alliance recognizes the urgent need for governments and elected leaders at all levels to adopt strong policies, in collaboration with the private sector, to reduce carbon emissions and the growing impacts of climate change. The Alliance and our members have a record of supporting strong climate change policies and taking voluntary steps to reduce carbon emissions. We will also continue to call on elected officials to support policies that promote private sector innovation and investment in clean technologies that will accelerate reductions in carbon emissions, and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

We also want to thank legislators for acknowledging that HB 2020 will lead to higher costs for consumers. We support the provision which directs a percentage of the new funds raised to assistance for low income and historically disadvantaged communities to mitigate the impact of these increased costs.

While we are not actively supporting HB 2020, we want to acknowledge and express appreciation for the collaborative work that the bill sponsors, led by Senator Dembrow and Representative Power, did which resulted in significant improvements to the bill. This collaborative work included our region's environmental advocates and literally dozens of our members. We will continue to work together to reduce the impacts of climate change because we believe this commitment to partnership and collaboration between environmental leaders and the private sector is what will continue to produce the strongest and most impactful climate policies now and for future generations.

Sincerely,



Andrew Hoan
President and CEO

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Greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce

