

Re Senate Bill 1530

I am writing in support of strong climate legislation. For too many years the Oregon Legislature has deferred acting on the most important issue of our time. We use to call it global warming, then climate change, then the climate crisis. The most apt term to use now is climate chaos: more frequent and severe forest fires, prolonged droughts, more severe flooding, ocean acidification – now affecting our cherished Dungeness crabs, and sea level rise.

I am an avid cross-country skier. More and more we are seeing rain rather than snow during the winter at the elevation on Mt Hood where we typically ski. Unless we bend the curve we are now on, my adult children simply will not have that opportunity to ski on Mt Hood when they reach my age.

We know that we are running out of time. Priority strategic choices are driven by what is both important and urgent. Climate chaos meets both of those criteria. Those who have taken the time to really understand this bill know that the economic benefits to rural Oregon are many: healthier forests, improved irrigation, weatherization of homes, and, most importantly, thousands of jobs from renewable energy projects which will mostly be in rural Oregon.

SB 1530 is taking us in the right direction and needs to do even more: eventually cover all of the state for transportation, and ensure big polluters pay so that they are quickly incentivized to reduce their pollution.

I urge passage of an even stronger SB 1530 during this short session. We need to act now to address the most critical issue facing this planet.

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