



February 4, 2020

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Olsen, members of the Committee:

~~For the record, my name is Pat Dudley.~~ My family has been farming wine grapes in Polk County for over 40 years. We have two generations currently active in our farm and winery, with a succession plan in place for our third generation. We are determined to do everything possible to ensure that the legacy they inherit is the vibrant, healthy, generous landscape that we found here when we first moved to Oregon.

We know that the biggest threat to that legacy is climate change, so I am here first of all to thank you for your hard work on this issue, and thank you also for the opportunity to testify today in support of strong, decisive action to confront climate change.

As farmers we understand that agriculture can be, and urgently needs to be, an important part of the solution to the threat of climate change. Agriculture offers potentially one of the most powerful tools for carbon sequestration and watershed resilience that we have in the world. All that is needed to unleash that potential is the support and leadership that strong climate legislation could provide. Farmers are ready to take up the challenge. Oregon can be a leader in the nation and the world in finding real solutions, if we can pass this groundbreaking legislation.

There is no bigger threat facing all of us in the world today than the rapid advance of climate change. We can't afford further delay in taking decisive action. Thank you for giving this legislation your very best effort.

Patricia Dudley
President, Bethel Heights Vineyard