

Testimony to SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Re: SB 1530 on 2-4-2020

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Olsen and members of this committee. I am Vern Groves, a retired United Methodist pastor living in Beaverton. I thank you for your persisting work on this complex and most urgent issue. I call your attention to two ethical imperatives that should motivate and shape our work on this crisis.

First, CAREFUL LISTENING TO PEER REVIEWED CLIMATE SCIENCE

For instance, NASA scientist, James Hansen tells us, and I quote **“Continued growth in greenhouse gas, for just another decade, practically eliminates the possibility of near term return of atmospheric composition beneath the tipping level for catastrophic effects.”** He goes on to suggest that without aggressive federal and state action during the next couple of years, the last window of opportunity will close for salvaging a livable planet. Passing strong legislation in 2020 has become a must because it will soon be too late!”

The other ethical imperative is COMPASSIONATE CARING ABOUT THOSE BEING IMPACTED NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. I quote Pope Francis on this. He has said, **“With each month that passes, the challenge of energy transition becomes more pressing... The transition to accessible and clean energy is a duty that we owe towards millions of our brothers and sisters around the world, poorer countries and future generation.”** Inaction on climate change is **“perpetuating a brutal injustice against the poor and future generations.”**

The other quote I want to leave with you is from a remarkable 16 year old girl speaking to world leaders at the UN this past September. GretaThunberg said to them and to us, **“For more than 30 years, the science has been crystal clear. How dare you look away! The eyes of future generations are on you. And if you choose to fail us, I say, we will never forgive you!”**

This is future humanity calling us to bold action and legislation on behalf of a livable future