

**From:** [Chris Clark](#)  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen Taylor](#); [Rep Power](#)  
**Subject:** SB 1530 TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF STRONG CLIMATE ACTION  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 5, 2020 11:40:14 PM

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Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Olsen and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, I sincerely appreciate the many hours of work -- and in some cases, years -- those in this committee and beyond have spent working to address the climate crisis.

My name is Chris Clark. I practice law in Portland, and I am the father of two teenage Oregonians.

Our oldest son was born in 2001, just hours before 9/11. At the time, I thought this would be the crisis that would shape his generation's future. I was wrong. Our response today to this climate emergency will determine whether he and his peers prosper or perish. This last decade -- my son's second decade of life -- was the hottest ever recorded. [Source: New York Times, "2019 Was the Second-Hottest Year Ever, Closing out the Warmest Decade," Jan 15, 2020, Henry Fountain and Nadja Popvich.]

The warming climate is affecting my sons' lives now: smoke days instead of snow days, changed summer plans because of wildfire, wondering if their grandparents and their home survived the Carr Fire. It is changing their plans for the future, prompting one of my sons to plan a gap year to see our Western national parks before the heat destroys their ecosystems. To fund his trip, he'll fight wildfires. Our children cannot look forward to their future if we continue with business as usual.

As a parent, I've been with my sons as they and their peers fight for their future, here in Salem and beyond. I am so glad they have been engaged. But at the same time, I am outraged that our youth have had to remind us adults to do our job -- to take care of our children and the future they are inheriting from us.

Some say there isn't time for this bill in this short session. The facts are otherwise. My youngest son has grown at least a foot since his first lobby day here in Salem on this topic, and he's taller than me now. You've had plenty of time to think about it.

It is time for Oregon to show our children we care about their future by actions, not words. I urge you to pass SB 1530 in the strongest form possible, this session.

Sincerely,  
Chris Clark  
Portland, Oregon