

Testimony of Linda Craig  
February 8, 2020

Re: SB 1530

Chair Denbrow, Vice Chair Olsen, members of the Committee,

I am Linda Craig. I live in NW Portland. I come today to speak in favor of a strong bill to cap greenhouse gas.

I am moved to testify because I am frightened by what is happening to the planet Thursday night on television, I saw a NOVA special on Polar Extremes. Perhaps some of you saw it. The program focused how both the Arctic and the Antarctic ice caps are melting. This isn't news to anyone who is paying attention, but the extent of the damage that will be done startled me.

The last time carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was at the level it is now (more than 400 ppm) was more than three million years ago, long before humans were on the planet. For the last 800,000 years (more than the entire span of our species), CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere has been less than 300 ppm.

Nobody really knows what our revised planet will look like, but sea level rise, ocean acidification, droughts and fires give us some clues. Ice core samples at both poles show us that when the CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere was last at the level it is today, the sea level was 50 - 80 feet higher than it is today...high enough to inundate many of the worlds' largest cities ..Miami and New Orleans, of course, but also New York, London, Shanghai, Osaka and Basra in Iraq and many others.

I grew up on a farm that my family still owns in Iowa. Agriculture will be changing in ways we can't begin to predict. The oceans, too, are changing. Will we be able to feed the world's peoples?

Is this our problem? You bet it is. The only way we are going to turn around this trend is that everyone needs to change the way they do business.

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I know that your constituents are concerned about what will happen to energy prices and their jobs, and I am sympathetic. My career was as a small business owner; I was a CPA.. I urge that the bill you pass provide funding for the necessary transition from fossil fuels for rural and impacted communities, but I also ask you to keep in mind that there are already more jobs in Oregon in clean energy than in the private sector of the timber industry (Timber industry jobs number 51,900 in private sector in 2017 per the Oregon Department of Employment. Clean energy jobs are 55,000 per E2 "Clean Energy Jobs in Oregon" 2019). And the pace of job growth in Oregon in renewable energy is falling behind other states that are acting more aggressively to make the transition to a fossil fuel-free economy.

Oregon is not a leader on this issue. It is time that we do our part, not only for the future of the planet, but also for the future of Oregon's economy.

I urge you to pass a strong bill to cap greenhouse gases now, this year.

I know that you have worked long and hard on this issue. Thank you, and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Linda Craig

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