

Testimony on HB 1530

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February 9, 2020

I'm Wesley Ward, from Southeast Portland. My wife and I live just west of the Union Pacific Railyard and container facility, our nearest emitter of tons of carbon from locomotives and 600 heavy diesel trucks daily. I'm a member of Portland Neighbors for Diesel Action (PNDA), a small, all-volunteer, grassroots advocacy group; but I submit this testimony as my views. I very much appreciate the hard and often thankless work this Committee is doing to find accord on this bill. We **all** need you to succeed; even those who fight against this legislation need you to succeed. Finally, we're all in this together.

It is past time to stop kicking this climate can down the road. We cannot wait for other states – and certainly not Congress – to huddle together and agree to give up this national game, which unlike the kids' version, has become dangerous, with a can so battered we can't kick it very far anymore. The CO2 observatory on Mauna Loa has provided rising measurements of atmospheric carbon for sixty-one years. Following Senate hearings thirty-one years ago, our government, military, energy companies, and many of our institutions understood what rising CO2 would mean, eventually – but many of us hoped there was a mistake in the data, the assumptions, the analysis, the models. Maybe scientists had the timing wrong or were crying wolf. Fusion power or hydrogen would save the day; we would preserve the rain forests and plant millions of trees; nature would rebalance and correct itself.

Then, about twenty years ago, an organized, well-funded campaign of disinformation and denial politicized the climate issue and overwhelmed good sense. But, as most of you recognize, we have run out of plausible denials, wishful thinking, and, above all we've nearly run out of time. The IPCC warns that, as the Climate Action Team's t-shirts proclaim, in ten or twelve years our climate fate will be sealed. Consequently, we

can no longer play this dangerous version of kick-the-can. For the good of our children, grandchildren and our communities, now is the time to stop kicking the can while the Arctic melts faster than predictions; time for the beginning of a solution. HB 1530 is not perfect, but it is a long-postponed step and it should pass. In Vermont, Connecticut, California, and Oregon, my family thank you and wish you well.