

February 20, 2020

To: House Rules Committee  
From: Douglas County Global Warming Coalition  
RE: HB 4167

Members of the House Rules Committee

My name is Stuart Liebowitz. I live in rural Douglas County, the heart of Timber Unity. As a board member of the Douglas County Global Warming Coalition representing 450 residents in our area, I am here to speak for the many rural voices who understand that climate change is threatening our way of life and will continue to do so. We also recognize that a strong House Bill 4167 is our best hope for our state to do its share to protect rural Oregon.

We are now seeing the effects of climate change. Droughts and ocean acidification are already impacting our economy. Unprecedented wildfires have darkened our skies, ravaged our forests, threatened our health and brought loss of life and property to our citizens. How ironic is it that the critics of this bill, in their fear-driven desire to protect their industry, turn a blind eye to the destruction wrought upon our forests from climate change and ignore the hope of House Bill 4167 which addresses global warming and, at the same time, offers much needed rural investment.

On a personal note, because I have asthma, these wildfires have driven me indoors, and even then my breathing is problematic. I have worked on this issue for 25 years. And as I reflect upon this, my 71st year and my recent bout with cancer, I realize more than ever - this is not about me. It is about my children, your children and all those who follow us.

So, please - make the passage of this bill your most powerful statement as to who we are and why we are here.

Sincerely,

Stuart Liebowitz  
Board Member of the Douglas County Global Warming Coalition  
143 SE Lane Avenue  
Roseburg, Oregon 97470