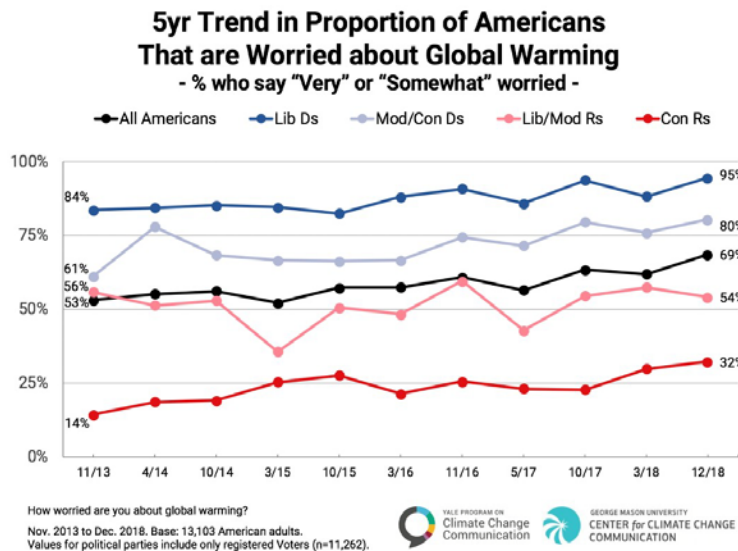


Dear Members of the Committee and colleagues:

In offering testimony in support of strong and significant legislative action to address climate change (HB 4167), I am not a partisan outlier but among the majority of Americans who are concerned about climate change. See graph below--69% of all Americans regardless of political affiliation shared my worry in 2018. Given the breadth and intensity of climate related events that have occurred in the intervening months (in Australia, the Amazon, etc.) it can reasonably be assumed this high level of concern has not abated! It is perplexing and frustrating that Republican legislators in Oregon apparently choose to ignore this public sentiment nor the gravity of the threat at hand.



Unless a person chooses willful ignorance, they are aware of scientific consensus and the dire predictions put forth by the International Panel on Climate Change and the Worldwide Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community. Although these portend a bleak future, focusing only on the problem leaves too many of us mired in fear or despair.

Rather than regale you with facts about the impacts of climate change to our State, which cannot reasonably be discounted, I want to speak to the importance of hope--of having courage and even excitement about embracing a strong cap and invest program. The possibilities outweigh perceived costs--bottom line, the cost of inaction is frankly horrifying.

In requiring only the largest polluters in our state to buy allowances or invest in offsets, HB 4167 could achieve multiple benefits--health-wise and economically-- for our communities. I find it reprehensible that the opposition preys on the fears of many whose livelihoods actually depend on a stable climate. Factually, subsidies, and any number of potential investments will benefit low income and the most impacted communities in our State!

Please do not succumb to the cynical and inaccurate fear tactics being promulgated by corporate polluters. The outcry about gas prices is a red herring. Market factors have more to do with the price of fuel than any carbon pricing program, as evidenced by California's experience since their enactment of a program to curb carbon emissions. Extreme weather events, which will only become more common with climate change, are the actual determinate!

It is also almost laughable to hear opposition crowing about process. No bill in my lifetime as an Oregonian has had this much work, input, and public process. Any minor fixes being offered in a bold face attempt to delay action can be worked out in Rule Making!

Acting TODAY you will set Oregon on an achievable path to meet already established goals, do our part to help stabilize our climate, reap the economic rewards of investing in communities across our State, and turn despair to optimism.

This is your time to lead. This is not the time for retreat, pay polluters to continue business as usual, or abdicate your moral imperative to attend to the unfinished business of last year's Clean Energy Jobs Bill.

Thank you,
Connie Peterson
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