

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

My name is Angelique Prater and I am currently a senior at South Salem High School. I will be 28 when my climate fate is sealed. I will finish 8 years of law school and only be able to be a lawyer for 2 years before my life will be consumed by the irreversible effects of climate change. Today, I am here to testify for HB 4167 because my communities are currently having our right to a livable future ripped away for the profits of billion dollar corporations.

I believe so strongly in passing climate legislation that I helped lead the youth movement which brought hundreds of people to the streets of Salem -- and tens of thousands of people across the state -- for the inspiring Climate Strike in September. We even declared a climate emergency on behalf of our generation on February 6th.

As a Latina woman, I recognize the harm my communities face due to the pollution from large corporations, and ultimately as a result of climate change. My parents immigrated here from Mexico because they wanted a safe future for their family. They have no choice but to work incredibly laborious jobs, and they currently work in agricultural farm work. Their bodies are deteriorating as the climate conditions worsen. The average age of a migrant farm worker is now 45. They came here to give their children the opportunity to a successful future and now this is being taken away. I am not the only person, or the only youth with this experience. I know that we are worth more than the money that these industries fund you with. Instead of buying into this greed, I ask that Corporate polluters be held accountable through HB 4167. More importantly, I ask that it be passed in 2020.

To the amendments: so far changes to this bill have weakened its climate protections and allowed polluters more leeway to continue destructive business as usual. I ask there be no more amendments and no more slowdown to this process. Every day you delay action, you deny my generation and my communities a viable future. Enough is enough.

Our legislators have had more than enough time to think about how to implement Cap and Invest. Although Republicans suddenly want to allow "the people to vote" on the matter, we simply do not have any more time. You and those before you have failed for 30 years, nearly twice my lifetime, to take the bold action you need to take. We need climate action now, not "next time", or in the "next place", or passed by the "next legislators". Our futures depend on this session. Please deliver the solutions that we need through HB 4167. Don't let us down.

Angelique Prater, 18

Salem, Oregon