

February 20, 2020

Submitted Testimony in Support  
of HB 4167

Chair Holvey, Members of the Committee.

For the record my name is Hans West. I'm a retired physician and have lived in Salem for 39 years. For a long time I have been concerned about climate change.

Allow me to thank you and other Oregon legislators who are working to mitigate the effects of climate change with necessary and sensible legislation.

Human caused climate change has become ever more serious in the last decade and is intensifying much sooner than was ever expected.

However in my opinion, in spite of this and our political gridlock, there are **some recent encouraging developments** nationwide with regards to the issue.

A November PEW survey found that **two thirds of US adults believe the Federal Govt must to do more to save the climate** (and a majority call it a crisis); overall **39% of Republicans** agree, as do 52% of young Republican adults.

In addition **three quarters (77%) of Americans** favor the development and use of **renewable energy** over increasing dependence on fossil fuels. **62% of Republicans** agree with that.

In the Senate in 2019, **Senators Braun** (R-Ind), **Lindsey Graham**, and **Mitt Romney** agreed publicly that **humans are changing the climate**. Senators Roberts (KS) and Barrasso WY) have stated that climate change is significantly affecting their states.

In the House, a handful of Republicans are co sponsoring at least **2 carbon pricing bills**.

Here in the Pacific NW, it was recently announced that twenty major companies (including Microsoft, Pay Pal, Unilever, Nike and Uber and others) are lobbying our three west coast states with the goal of having a **joint carbon market on the Pacific coast**.

Then, there's the **Climate Leadership Council** which is promoting a **nationwide revenue neutral carbon pricing program** (with an economy wide fee on CO2 emissions and carbon dividends for all Americans.) This Republican, but now bipartisan, organization was founded in part by a **group of prominent economists and former high ranking Republican administration officials** (such as James Baker, George Shultz, Christine Whitman, etc.) A large group of prominent companies are in support of this council; to name a few, Shell, ExxonMobil, IBM, GM and Microsoft.

Finally, at the recent Davos World Economic forum, for the first time the global climate crisis was listed as **the most important risk to our continuing economic growth**, and also as a threat to more than half of the world's GDP.

Oregon is not alone in wanting to save the climate.

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