

Written Testimony for HB 4167 from Peggy Harkins, Portland Resident

February 21, 2020

Chairman Holvey, Vice Chairs Drazan and Smith Warner and House Rules Committee:

Thank you for your time listening and reading the testimonies of those speaking to HB 4167 including staying into the late hours of yesterday evening (I was with you on-line). Like you, I have spent much time in hearings, testimonies and with others discussing this and previous versions of a climate carbon bill. We are in the home stretch on years of work, just hang in a little longer, please!

I won't spend time here rehashing the science of climate change. I know you have heard it not only within the halls of the capitol but in your every day life. Climate change is real, it is happening faster than first projected and it's consequences will be devastating to Oregonians, it has already shown its impact in our fisheries, farms and forests. We need to act quickly, we need to pass HB 4167 and it's companion bill SB 3015.

So, I know you can see the sharp divide on this bill, we all do. We feel it too. I am sad that we all have not done a better job to talk to and understand those opposing the bill. Through the hours of testimonies I have heard a large amount of mis-information and mis-representation of the bill. I truly believe this isn't because people are stupid, it is because they are fearful. There immediate fears override their ability to look into how inaction can totally devastate their future.

So what can we do as Oregonians to make both, those for and those opposing this bill, win? First and foremost we need to correct the mis-information about our climate bills in both the Oregon House and Senate. We need to lessen peoples fear. If we take away the barrier of fear I promise you, people can find themselves more open to changes and perhaps can even become problem solvers and creative thinkers for the issues at hand. Change is already happening to our climate and if we just sit in fear and mis-information, that will not help us to survive. As a leader I see it as your job to help guide us away from a devastating future.

Time is short in this session: I propose that next Saturday legislators have a day at the Statehouse reading the bills and allowing constituents to ask questions. I believe that just the reading of the bill alone will tell us all that we need to trust our legislators in being the best at writing bills especially ones as complex as HB 4167 and SB 3015. I don't believe their job should be done in a vacuum so it is critical

constituents can question their reasoning. I know I am asking one more day out of your already busy life in this session but I believe it will help to lessen the divide we Oregonians feel at this time. It is time our leaders lead us into a brighter future than we will have with inaction.

Please do not let politics get in the way of Oregonians future! Thank you for your time.

Cc: Senator Lew Frederick

Representative Tawna Sanchez