

Dear Chair Horvey, Vice-Chairs Drazen and Smith Warner, and Representatives Fahey, Nosse, Sprenger, and Zika,

My name is Mary Chaffin. I lived in Oregon from 1981 until 2010, when I moved to Massachusetts to serve as general counsel for an international charity providing financial services for poor people. I retired in 2016 and returned to Oregon and now live in Sisters. My husband and I raised two sons in Oregon and hope to become grandparents someday.

I'm here to speak to you about why I personally care so much about the passage of a bill like HB 4167, which together with similar legislation elsewhere, will have a significant impact on the future of our planet. I have seen a lot of change in Oregon over the more than 35 years I have lived here. Some of that change has been positive. But we cannot close our eyes to the effects of climate change that are visibly affecting us now. Our glaciers are retreating, threatening our water supply. The forest fire season has lengthened and become much more severe. Extreme weather is more common. Average daily temperatures have risen.

In order to stop these destructive changes and to begin to roll them back, we must take immediate, resolute action. Republicans in the House and Senate have made constructive suggestions for how we can reduce the levels of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. I support aggressive programs to plant trees to absorb carbon dioxide. However, these measures are not enough. We need a comprehensive market-based carbon-reduction program like the one envisioned by HB 4167.

We have experience with the kind of marketplace that HB 4167 would establish. The 1990 amendments to the federal Clean Air Act passed during the administration of Republican President George H.W. Bush established a national system of marketable pollution allowances that greatly cut power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide, dramatically reducing acid rain. The health benefits of the Act have far exceeded their cost. <https://www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview/progress-cleaning-air-and-improving-peoples-health#pollution>

This methodology works. We need to do it now to reduce carbon emissions. We have only a few years to go before the climate tipping point will have come and gone.

In addition to speaking for myself, I'm also here as a spokesperson for 22 registered Indivisible groups that are part of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network. The Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (or COIN) represents thousands of Oregonians and is dedicated to making our state a safer, healthier, and environmentally supportive place to live. The following 22 Indivisible groups -- Indivisible 97201, Indivisible Cedar Mill, Indivisible Progressive Yamhill, Union County Progressives, ORD2 Indivisible, Rogue Indivisible (Grants Pass), The Dalles Progressives, Florence Indivisible, Indivisible Bend, Indivisible Eugene, Indivisible Sisters, Nasty Women, Protect Oregon's Progress (The Dalles), Rural Voices (Condon), The Vocal Seniority (Bend), Indivisible Clackamas, Indivisible Hillsboro, Klamath Indivisible, One Small Thing PDX, Indivisible Columbia Gorge, SW Portland Huddle, and Wallowa Action Group -- signed a letter that was delivered to the Senate Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources on January 13, supporting the passage of strong climate legislation. This letter was entered into the legislative record and was also delivered to every legislator and to Governor Brown.

I'm here today to ask you to put Oregon first and pass strong legislation that will prevent the current climate crisis from becoming a climate catastrophe. Thank you.