

Please consider this testimony in favor of strong climate action this year, 2020.

I have a significant stake in seeing strong climate legislation, as a father of two beautiful young children, as someone who finds his higher power at work in nature and as a regular, working citizen of Oregon and planet Earth. If we can't get our greenhouse gas emissions under control, my children will face a harder, meaner, more dangerous future, with increasingly huge climate refugee crises, political instability and more blowhard authoritarians like Trump. Vast swaths of wilderness will be diminished or destroyed and hundreds of thousands of plants and animals will go extinct. The health and livelihoods of all people in Oregon and the world will be at risk.

Clearly the cost of not doing enough about climate change is massive and incomprehensible.

The cost of doing something about climate change? A well constructed piece of legislation would actually contribute to economic growth in the state. It would put us on track to massive reductions in emissions. And it would put Oregon in a position to serve as a role model to other medium-sized states to follow our lead.

The choice couldn't be simpler. The right choice is to pass strong climate legislation this year.

Republicans are doing everything they can to delay and kill the bill. They complain about process and the not having enough time. In reality the legislation encompassed by HB 4167 has been carefully crafted over 5 years, voted out of committees 8 times, had four public hearings this year alone, and eight last year. It is disingenuous in the extreme to say this legislation has not been sufficiently vetted.

We must act now, because the climate disaster train is leaving the station. Please allow this bill to proceed to floor votes in the House and Senate this session

Thank you,
Stephen Funk
2030 SW Roxbury Ave.
Portland, OR 97225