

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Girod and Members of the Committee;

My name is KB Mercer, and I live in Portland, Oregon where I own and operate a small business.

I am also a passionate and dedicated volunteer with Oregon Climate, Renew Oregon, and for the past 7 years with the Citizen's Climate Lobby. I'm also on the Steering Committee of the Metro Climate Action Team, sponsored by OLCV. I work on the both state and federal level to shepherd meaningful climate policy into law.

I work very hard to fit my volunteer work into my already busy schedule. I have put in hundreds of hours. Over the past years I can't even count the number of times I have juggled my work load, and come down to Salem to attend all the hearings that created, crafted and promoted the Clean Energy Jobs bill. I gave up weekends and knocked on doors for political campaigns to get legislators elected who would pass that bill. I drove a carpool of compatriots down for every floor session, demonstration, and rally to help get that bill passed. I made those giant signs that went up over the freeway bridges.

In short, I worked hard, for free. I played by the rules. I trusted the system and put my faith in the honor and integrity of our legislators, and in our democratic system.

And then Republicans, cornered by a fair majority, walked out. Like spoiled children, these deceptive lawmakers paralyzed the business of our state and made Oregon a national laughing stock.

All that work, all that time, all those hours upon hours of good faith negotiations and expert testimony, lost. It cost Oregon almost half a million dollars for those for 35 empty days. And these bad faith politicians still collected paychecks paid for by me, with MY taxes. And for what? For skipping work and toasting each other while hiding out from law enforcement on Daddy's ranch in Idaho.

I have had enough.

Oregonians have had enough.

It's time to require attendance and demand a fair vote from all our elected officials.

I urge you to support this slate of bills.

Thank you.