

5/13/21

RE: HB-2021-46

Good afternoon Chair Nathanson and Committee Members;

For the record my name is Mike Sullivan. I am the Oregon Political Director for the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers, commonly known as AWPPW. I refer to the members of AWPPW as “two-legged endangered species”, due to the outsourcing of our jobs to dirty nations due the stringent demands of the environmental community and the elimination of paper mills that enhances owners’ profit. Most recently, West Rock in Newberg Oregon which cost over 200 members’ jobs. This mill was a profitable mill, but the owners bought it then shut it without letting another paper producer buy it, which ultimately leads to more expensive paper products. AWPPW is concerned that there is no boiler plate protection for those industrial jobs that would be lost by the results of the passage of HB-2021-46. I would like to point out that paper mills are usually set in rural communities. This creates another four to six jobs in the community the mill is located. AWPPW would like to see a **Just Transition** for such workers who lose their jobs though no fault of their own. I offer this definition of a **Just Transition** :

- Job training and preferential placement in positions with comparable wages and benefits consistent with seniority and the provisions of any applicable collective bargaining agreements.
- Educational and retraining benefits for all displaced workers including tuition payment and living stipends for up to four years of additional education.
- Enhanced severance, wage subsidy and retirement benefits for all displaced workers equivalent to 100% of the average salary for the affected workers for up to four years or placement in a job with equivalent or greater salary, whichever comes first. These benefits shall be in addition to that required by any applicable collective bargaining agreement, employee manual or corporate policy.
- Transition assistance benefits for any affected community.

Types of a **Just Transition** have been done when Japan went from ship building to car making and Scandinavian countries have done such as well.

Recently the BBC had an essay titled, *Report China emissions exceed all developed nations combined*. It states that China emits 27% of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions in 2019. China has 1,058 coal plants which is more than half the world’s capacity.

Couple that with with the recent finds of The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) in its report on *Regional Mobility Pricing Project* for the Portland metro area. This report points out that, “ineffective travel contributes to climate change. Personal cars and light trucks create approximately 36% of all greenhouse gas emission in Oregon.” ODOT suggests that toll roads be put in to address congestion and provide funding for critical infrastructure improvements.

So, between the emissions of China and ineffective travel which eventually effective the mills AWPPW members work in. They are between two big rocks that probably will eliminate their jobs.

AWPPW understands the needs of the environmental concerns all too well. But our members might say that before their jobs are to be terminated for the concerns of HB-2021-46 presently, you ought to give up your jobs in solidarity.

So please consider these concerns and think of a boiler plate **Just Transition**, all boats should rise with the tide. If there is something AWPPW could do to help bring this bill to a more reasonable state, we are more than happy to do what ever we can to make this important bill move along to passage.

Sincerely,

Mike Sullivan