

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SJM 5 URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT BIPARTISAN CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION

Submitted by Gordon Molitor, Portland, Oregon
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Senator Byers and Members of the Oregon Senate Committee on Energy and Environment;

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SJR 5 and the Amendment proposed by Senator Dembrow.

My name is Gordy Molitor, I am a resident of Portland, OR, which has been my "home" since 1977. I have worked in anti-poverty programs, in Oregon and overseas for 27 years. I am motivated to present this testimony, because the impacts of Global Warming are and will be disproportionately born by low-income people in Portland, in Oregon and across the globe, and because the low-income have contributed the least to this existential problem. I believe it is a moral imperative that we, the richer nations who have contributed the most to the problem, must act to combat it.

I urge the Committee to consider SJM 5 as unfinished business. In the last full session, the Committee did extensive and excellent work on HB 2020 and SB 1530, The Clean Energy Jobs Bill, but was unable to put a price on Greenhouse Gas pollution in Oregon. HB 2020 was always seen as a state-level, less-effective, stopgap measure, necessary only because of the federal government's failure to act.

SJM 5 will encourage the new Congress and President to pass and sign HR 763 The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. HB 763 will put an effective national price on Greenhouse Gas pollution, accomplishing one of the Committee's primary goals from the last session. Additionally, the dividend, paid equally to all households in America, means that low- and middle-income households, which consume less energy, will receive more in dividends than they pay in increased energy costs. In this way, HR 763 helps address a just transition to a clean economy, which was another major concern of the Committee in the last session.

Finally, I would like to, again, thank the Committee for all of their good work in support of a price on Greenhouse Gas pollution; and, I urge you, as a moral issue and the next step in your ongoing climate action work to pass SJM 5. Please encourage Congress and the President to pass the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.