

I am a retired public health nurse living in Jackson County Oregon for 25 years. I believe the effects of climate change are the greatest threat to human health in Oregon, the USA and the world. This was brought home to me suddenly on September 8, 2020 when 1/3 of the homes in my town of Talent, Oregon burned to the ground when a raging, hot wind blew wildfire north from Ashland to Medford. I believe the drought and wind that fueled this fire were a direct result of climate chaos caused by a huge buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Every year the fires burn hotter and the air pollution from the wildfires lasts longer and is more severe and toxic to human health.

I am writing to support the passage of SJM5. This Oregon resolution supports the passage of House Resolution 763 which puts a revenue-neutral fee on fossil fuels that starts low and grows over time. This fee will drive down carbon pollution because energy companies, industries and consumers will move toward cleaner and cheaper options faster. This resolution requires that program costs be paid from the fees collected and ensuring that the federal government will not keep any moneys from the carbon fee. The fees will be returned and allocated in equal shares every month to the American people to spend as they see fit, helping low-income and middle-income Americans the most.

The United States is a leader in the world. We must "walk our talk" and lead the way toward a healthier world. Many economists say a carbon fee is one of the fastest ways to move from a fossil fuel economy to a cleaner fuel economy. Our lives depend on this change. Thank you for your consideration and time, Susan Bizeau/Jackson County Oregon