

To: Senator Lee Beyer and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

From: Jane Stackhouse

Date: March 1, 2021

RE: SJM 5-1 Urges Congress to enact bipartisan climate change legislation.

Chair Beyer, Vice-chair Findley, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment.

I am writing in support of SJM 5 which Urges Congress to enact bipartisan climate change legislation and more specifically the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. This Senate Joint Memorial will make Oregon the first state to support this type of Federal bi-partisan climate legislation. Why should we?

In a time when our country is politically divided, we need to find ways to open dialog and come together to reach solutions that face us as a nation. Global warming not only affects the nation, our economy, health, and military security it is a global issue. Denying it exists will not make it go away and, as the scientific proof of global warming is even better documented, most people in the country agree it is a problem. We also know there are solutions although our time is running out to reduce overall warming. These are solutions that will be good for our economy and health. As we transition off fossil fuels, we will see the cost of energy decrease and the number of new jobs in geothermal, solar, wind and other yet to be developed new technologies increase. Our air will be cleaner as we eliminate particulates and improve overall air quality. As we shift our modes of transportation to more walking, biking we will become more fit. The only thing holding us back is the personal and political will to take action.

A wise group of legislators formed the Climate Solutions Caucus because they know the threat as real and the solution simple – reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They are a bipartisan group that has been looking at policies that both parties can accept. They have reached agreement that a fee and dividend program such as the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act will decrease emissions by putting a price on each ton of greenhouse gas emitted. If something costs more, we use less of it. By distributing these fees to US taxpayers, we will not grow our government or get involved in the redistribution of funds. Those who pay a higher percent of their income on energy will receive an equal share of the dividend which will help offset their increased costs.

The amendment -1 to refer to the Federal bi-partisan bill by name rather than the bill number from the last Congress is a wise move. Although I would keep the dire language in lines 6 – 12 I will not object to it being removed since this SJM is from Oregon and we have only experienced mild adversity from the effects of global warming and accompanying climate change. We have not seen massive crop failures that have led to farmer suicide and starvation that some countries have experienced. Although we have seen an increase in farmers filing for failed crop insurance. We do not experience the routine flooding that Miami, Florida experiences with every high tide. Although we do see salinity increasing in tidal marsh areas. We have not lost our traditional modes of transportation like the Inuit now that stable ice is available for much less of the year. Although we are walking, biking, and taking mass transit to decrease our use of fossil fuels.

Please not only vote for SJM 5 but please look for ways we can create bi-partisan support for climate action in Oregon. If we do not act now the situation in Oregon will also become dire.