

Submitter: John Weigant  
On Behalf Of: Elders Climate Action--Oregon Chapter  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure: SB522

Dear Chair Sollman and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

I support SB 522. I'm a native Oregonian, a Republican, a climate activist, a former physics teacher, a former urban planner who read THE LIMITS TO GROWTH (LTG) in 1972 and its sequels, a software development consultant (a specialist in information and learning), and a futurist. This life experience tells me disaster for humanity lies ahead. We need a paradigm shift by the vast majority of the population to recognize that "Business As Usual" is no longer a viable option.

In particular, Conservatives and Capitalists must shift their paradigms from quantity growth and economic development to quality growth. Quantity growth is limited by the physics laws of conservation of mass and energy. They are finite, and current strategies produce killing pollution. Dennis Meadows, Project Director of the MIT team that wrote LTG (1972), BEYOND THE LIMITS (1992), and LTG, THE 30-YEAR UPDATE (2004), says, in LIMITS AND BEYOND (2022), "I intuitively believe that the planet Earth could sustainably support perhaps a billion people at living standards like those of Italy or South Korea today." (page 62) Think about that!

The physics Law of Conservation of Momentum also suggests huge collision ahead, because capitalism and conservatism have huge momentum, with insufficient force available to redirect them in time. Paradigm shifts are resisted and slow. Strengthening Oregon's Climate Action is vital, and I think SB 522 aims at that goal. Society cannot change its paradigm until we people do.

In particular, people must learn that their own behavior is the problem. For example, SB 522 says nothing of recreation, nor did the Governor's Order 20-04. Consider the amount of fossil fuel boating consumes. The Oregon State Marine Board, a couple of sessions ago, decided to tax human powered boaters with a Water Access Fee (In violation of the 1859 Act of Congress Admitting Oregon to the Union, that required that the navigable waters of the state were common highways, forever free). Human powered boating is both sustainable and healthful. Taxing it is wrong. Sailing is a sustainable sport, yet sailboats, wind powered, are typically longer than power boats, to take advantage of length-dependent "hull speed" limits. They pay the same cost-per-foot registration fees. RVs of every sort have high environmental cost. Tourism is carbon-intensive. And what is missing in all this? AWARENESS. How we get aware? By information and education.

"Education" is mentioned 3 times in the bill. It needs a bigger role. "Recreation" is not mentioned, nor is "tourism," "convention", or "Metro." Fundamentally, people lack good information. While mass, energy, and momentum are conserved, information grows exponentially, and information determines quality. SB 522 is essentially trying to improve information related to climate change, but it could be

much more aggressive. Better is our goal, not more.

Thank you!

John A. Weigant, Climate Activist