

Submitter: Naomi Hemstreet  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR20

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, members of the committee,

My name is Naomi Hemstreet. I am 16 years old and attend high school in Portland, Oregon.

I support HJR 20 because youth deserve to have a voice in the politics that affect them. The political decisions that are made in the next few years will have significant impacts on our world. As a young person, it is incredibly frustrating to see adults in power continue to ignore the climate crisis. I see adults in power continue to invest in fossil fuel infrastructure, even though we drastically need to reduce our emissions, and fossil fuels are a large contributor to this. I see adults in power attempt to increase fares for our public transportation, even though public transit is one of our best options for reducing carbon emissions in the transportation sector. I see adults in power logging the forests that sequester immense amounts of carbon from the atmosphere.

The reverberations of these decisions will be felt long past the time when the adults in power are still alive. These decisions will affect my future and the futures of the generations after me. 16 and 17 year olds deserve to have a voice in politics so that we can influence the direction our world takes. We deserve to have a voice so that we are not helpless, watching our futures being signed away to wildfires and flooding and climate disasters without our consent. We deserve to have a voice so that we have a fair chance to build the world we want to live in.

Please support HJR 20 so that 16 and 17 year olds like me can have our voices, opinions, and values represented in politics. In this important time in the world, it is critical that 16 and 17 year olds have access to influence the systems that we will live in for the rest of our lives.

Thank you.