
From: Patrino Beth
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 8:57 AM
To: Mickelson Anastasia
Subject: FW: Testimony on HB 3250

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From: burdock@efn.org [<mailto:burdock@efn.org>]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 12:58 AM
To: Patrino Beth
Subject: Testimony on HB 3250

Dear Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee,

Economics class taught us that a company's production costs do not really include the true cost of the product. That's because the company was not required to pay the clean-up costs of the polluted air and water that resulted from this production process. No, that is left to the taxpayer, when the pollution becomes unbearable. So companies have used everyone's air and rivers as their company's sewer systems. That's just the way it was, and is.

But things are about to change. And Oregon can be on the leading edge of this important push in the direction of sane use of the resources we all hold in common. Putting a cap on carbon emissions and making companies pay for their carbon effluence beyond the cap, will eventually help steer this society away from fossil fuel consumption and further level the playing field for the consumption of renewable and sustainable energy sources.

I understand that HB 3250 would bring our greenhouse gas emissions 85% below 1990 levels by 2050. This is substantial! And if done elsewhere as well, could avoid a 2°C rise in global temperature averages. Certainly we can hope that our action would inspire similar federal action for climate stability.

My understanding is that HB 3250 provides that Oregonians would receive the earnings made through this carbon tax. Perhaps this distribution of earnings is a way to alleviate the often unequal hardship other climate sustainability proposals could have on low income Oregonians.

I hope you, the House Energy and Environment Committee, will support HB 3250. Please do everything in your power to make this legislation law.

Thank you for your time and your dedicated work for our state.

Sincerely,
Gwen Jaspers
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Eugene, OR 97402