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04/13/2015

**Testimony to the House Energy and Environment Committee
on Carbon Pricing
(House Bills 3470, 3252 and 3250)**

April 14, 2015

**Victor Merced, Executive Director
Hacienda**

Hacienda CDC, formed in 1992, is a Latino Community Development Corporation that strengthens families by providing affordable housing, homeownership support, economic advancement and educational opportunities. The Latino community makes up about **13%** of Oregon's population, including **15%** of children under 5 years.

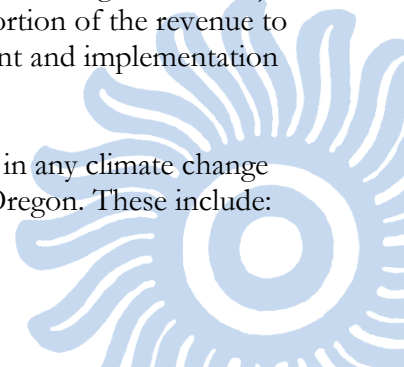
Climate change impacts represent a threat to the way of life for Latino communities and families in Oregon. Hacienda encourages the State of Oregon to take action and reduce harmful climate pollution by pricing carbon emissions. It is critical that an effective carbon pricing program in Oregon has strong equity and environmental justice provisions.

Latinos are and will continue to be disproportionately impacted by climate change in Oregon. For example, with temperature fluctuations and water scarcities, our families will be less able to afford increasing healthy food prices and will be less likely to respond to displacement due increased housing demand and rising costs in Oregon. We believe that action is necessary to prepare and protect our communities and families against these kinds of climate change impacts, now and for future generations.

An equitable carbon pricing program in Oregon will offer protection from disproportionate financial impacts while creating economic opportunities for communities of color. In Portland, Verde, Hacienda CDC and the Native American Youth and Family Center established Living Cully: A Cully Ecodistrict. In Living Cully, our communities have reinterpreted sustainability as an anti-poverty strategy, introducing new environmental assets to Cully in response to existing community needs: health, employment, education, and housing. We are optimistic that if done equitably, increased climate solution investments like Living Cully will create opportunities for good, family wage jobs, better transportation options, and more resilient communities.

An equitable carbon pricing program in Oregon should include the following elements: 1) Protect households and communities from impacts, 2) Reinvest a portion of the revenue to provide economic opportunities, and 3) Make the policy development and implementation process inclusive and accountable.

There are a number of important principles that should be reflected in any climate change policies, including an equitable and just carbon pricing program in Oregon. These include:





1. Protect people and the planet - Science should determine the limit of carbon emissions and the timeline under which emissions reductions need to occur, ensuring that we prevent the worst environmental and economic consequences of climate change.
2. Maximize benefits – Oregon’s carbon pricing program should strengthen existing and create new pathways into prosperity and increase opportunity for Oregon’s workers and communities.
3. Minimize impacts - Assist low and moderate-income families as well as communities of color in meeting their basic needs.
4. Make the process inclusive and accountable - Ensuring policy is equitable requires the involvement of those Oregonians who might be disproportionately impacted and their advocates. A mechanism for measuring and reporting on community reinvestment will help make climate policy more accountable and transparent.
5. Increase resilience to climate impacts - Assure that those who are most vulnerable to the direct effects of climate change are able to prepare and adapt.
6. Ease the transition for workers - Workers in older industries that are highly reliant on carbon based energy – and the communities in which they’re concentrated – must be provided with the assistance and tools necessary to make the transition to the emerging low carbon economy and to be competitive for good jobs within it.
7. Limit climate pollution and invest in solutions - Revenues generated by putting a price on climate pollution should be used to invest in the public good by ensuring an inclusive and fair transition to a high-road clean economy, which advances the needs of workers, consumers, families, and diverse urban and rural communities while protecting the planet.

In order to ensure generations of healthy and resilient communities, Hacienda supports carbon management and pricing policies in Oregon, which prioritize equitable protections and investments in communities of color and low-income communities.

We thank you for taking our perspective into account on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor Merced".

Victor Merced
Executive Director
Hacienda CDC

