



240 N Broadway, Ste 214
Portland, OR 97227

LatinoNetwork
www.LatNet.org

info@LatNet.org
503.283.6881

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Energy and Environment Committee

Testimony re: HBs 3470, 3252 and 3250

The Latino Network, founded in 1996, provides transformative opportunities, services, and advocacy for the education, leadership and civic engagement of our youth, families and communities. 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. Latino Network urges the State of Oregon to take action and reduce harmful climate pollution through pricing carbon emissions in an equitable manner.

Latinos are and will continue to be disproportionately impacted by climate change in Oregon. Our communities and children already face alarming rates of disparity across poverty, low income, insecure employment, food insecurity, stress, low education and unsafe housing--disparities that may be exacerbated by climate change and financial impacts of climate solutions. Action is necessary to prepare and protect our communities and families against 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. For example, Oregon's carbon pricing program should provide relief from higher energy and fuel bills for lower-income households and communities of color. Making strategic investments in clean energy solutions is also important. We are optimistic that if done equitably, these investments will create opportunities for good, family wage jobs, better transportation options, and more resilient communities.

Latino Network values advocacy, leadership and engagement of Latinos in the decisions that affect their lives—including climate solutions policies. Our children and communities are already bearing the brunt of environmental and economic inequities—such as housing in high traffic pollution corridors—and our lives are literally more threatened by climate impacts than the average Oregonian. Climate solutions must be developed and passed in an equitable and inclusive manner.

The state must prioritize an equitable carbon pricing program in Oregon that 1) protects households and communities from impacts, 2) reinvests a portion of the revenue to provide economic opportunities, and 3) makes the policy development and implementation process inclusive and accountable.

We appreciate your time and consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carmen Rubio".

Carmen Rubio

Executive Director