

**From:** Douglas County Global Warming Coalition  
**To:** [SENR Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** SB557  
**Date:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 9:02:35 AM

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February 21, 2017

Dear Chair Senator Dembrow and Committee Members:

The Douglas County Global Warming Coalition, representing over 500 members of our community, wishes to express our strongest support for SB557, the Cap and Invest bill. By putting a price on greenhouse gas emissions, this legislation will significantly reduce deadly climate pollution in a fair and equitable way. Not only will low income and vulnerable households be protected, but the resulting clean energy jobs will boost our economy.

As the consequences of climate change grow more severe, it is critical we take action now. Rural Oregon understands full well the impacts of climate change. A recent study by scientists from the University of Idaho and Columbia University concluded that more than half of the increased length of America's fire season since 1979 is due to climate change. This translates into 16,000 extra square miles of forest fires. For timber dependent Douglas County, this means loss of resources, loss of property and most important, loss of lives. But the worst is yet to come. Stated S. Park Williams, one author of the study, "In the 2030's, fires will be unrecognizable to what we're seeing now."

For too long we have debated and delayed. For too long we have justified inaction, waiting for the perfect bill. Each day we fail to act guarantees more pain, suffering and tragedy. Climate change legislation must be this session's highest priority. For what greater calling can there be than to ensure we have a livable planet?

In 2015, 190 countries came together and signed the Paris Climate Agreement. It will reduce climate pollution to manageable levels, thereby avoiding a climate catastrophe. This can only happen if each country fulfills its commitment to do its share. It is absolutely clear by word and deed that this White House and this Congress will take no action to fulfill our commitment.

And so we turn to the states as our last best hope. It is an extraordinary responsibility. Each of you carries the fate of the world on your shoulders. But this is where we stand today. Let 2017 be the year which future generations look back upon with pride and say: "This Legislature stood up with so many to protect us, our children and the planet. For this we are grateful."

Sincerely,

The Board of the Douglas County Global Warming Coalition

Stuart Liebowitz  
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Polly Stirling  
Amy Nathanson

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