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Climate change is already having major economic impacts as evidenced by recent record torrential rain in California with flooding, evacuations and destruction of infrastructure. This is not just "the weather", it is "weather-weirding" in the extreme and virtually all climate scientists predict it will only get worse with attendant melting glacial water supplies, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, population displacement, wild-life extinctions and a myriad of other as yet unrecognized adverse consequences. Everything we can do to mitigate this already present and growing catastrophe must be done. Those who deny the validity of scientific predictions about climate change are evolving their positions from outright denial to "I'm not a scientist" to "the climate is changing but I don't know how much is due to the burning of fossil fuels because that's not possible to precisely measure." Well, it's past time to *assume* that burning fossil fuels is the cause since there are no reasonable alternative explanations and controlling carbon emissions is our only means to attempt to alleviate planet-wide disaster. With continued warming, eons of stored green-house gases will be uncontrollably released into the atmosphere by melting permafrost and the time will have passed for us to be able to do anything to stop an accelerating cycle of rising temperature. We need to act before panic and hopelessness replace **complacency**.

The situation is more urgent now that the Federal government has turned it's back on the problem altogether. States and local governments must do whatever they can. It's past time for Oregon to lead by finally putting a price on carbon emissions to level the playing field with sustainable energy sources. Ideological fear of big government solutions is not a sufficient rationale for allowing the collapse of life as we know it. A "fee and dividend" is a market-based approach that is politically expedient and socially acceptable and has recently even been promoted by Republican elder statesmen. **But whatever the specifics of the plan, please act this year and put a price on carbon emissions.**

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