

**Joint Meeting of the
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
March 1, 2017**

**Testimony in Support of SB 557 – Clean Energy and Jobs Bill
Bob Robison**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am a retired public administrator. My career included working for the Oregon Department of Energy, staff to the Energy Facility Siting Council. About 20 years ago I helped site the first gas-fired power plants near Boardman and Hermiston, along the I-84 corridor.

At your most recent joint meeting (February 20th) I heard interesting questions posed to the representative from the Oregon Climate Research Institute. As you know the Institute represents the combined scientific knowledge of our Oregon colleges and universities.

In essence, the question was:

Since climate change is a global problem, and Oregon's emissions account for just a small fraction of those worldwide how much difference can Oregon really make? Why should we burden Oregonians with the costs of taxing greenhouse gasses? And wouldn't our attention be better spent on adapting to the inevitable consequences of climate change?

As a life-long Oregonian I ask that you please not be seduced by such a false choices.

The Institute's report answers the question directly, on page one:

"We must try to reduce or even eliminate greenhouse gas emissions, and we must make preparations and adjustments that will be needed to meet new environmental conditions, doing so at all levels of government and society, from the highest international agreements down to our own personal actions (Bierbaum et al., 2014)."

I encourage you work with our agency staff, expert scientists from our universities, and our passionate environmental community to do the right thing.

Please help craft SB 557 into a bill that will prepare Oregon for a frightening future of climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.