

To: Chairs Dembrow and Helm.

Joint Committees, Energy and Environment, and Environment and Natural Meeting

Date: March 1, 2017

Subject: SB 557 and SB 748

I am writing in support of the Clean Energy Jobs bill. It is a critical opportunity for Oregon to take a leadership role in reducing our state's level of pollution and impact on the climate and also to reap the long-term benefits of a clean energy economy – from jobs in renewable energy to cleaner air.

As an Oregonian that has greatly enjoyed the opportunities in our beautiful state for outdoor recreation and experience, I am loath to imagine the effects of climate change on our state. What is the legacy we will leave the next generations of Oregonians, if we do not do what we can to reverse the warming of our streams and lakes, and lessen the increasing frequency of forest fires? How will our children's and our own daily lives be, if the trend toward a higher occurrence of extreme weather events is not slowed or even reversed?

In addition, climate change is being connected to an increasing number of medical conditions such as lung disease, stroke, heart attack and microcephaly. As a retired neuropsychologist who has worked more than 30 years providing counseling and assessment to children and adults with chronic medical conditions, I know too well the personal impact of such conditions and the cost to family functioning and societal resources.

While Oregon has taken some very positive steps to reduce pollution, it lacks comprehensive economy-wide goals and programs that reduce climate pollution according to enforceable scientifically based targets. The Clean Energy Jobs will cap and put a price on climate pollution and invest the proceeds into the local clean energy economy with a focus on a just transition for the economically distressed communities in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration and response to one of the greatest challenges of our time. It is my hope that as Oregonians we will work together to find the opportunities inherent in this challenge.

Signed,

Margaret Sutko, Ph.D.
Portland, Oregon