

March 1, 2017 Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Hearing
SB557

Committee Senators:

Thank you for holding hearings on SB557.

Climate change and the global rise in temperatures are a challenge that all nations and all world peoples are facing. The difficulty in this subject is that it has been insidious by nature.

More recently, we in the Northwest have seen an escalation of the **Climate Crisis** with more extreme winters, hotter summers, and more frequent drought conditions. Forest fires have increased in number and severity. The summer of 2015 brought 67 consecutive days of wildfires in 43 different locations.

On August 22, 2015, my husband and I were going home from the Hollywood Farmers' Market in Portland when our eyes started to sting and our throats began to burn as the wind brought smoke from the Cougar Creek fire near Mount Adams. That morning and throughout the day, the fire produced a smog which blocked the sun and forced us to keep our windows closed. Health authorities cautioned people, especially the chronically ill, elderly, and the young, to stay indoors.

The accumulation of greenhouse gases is reaching a dangerous high. Oregon power plants and major industrial facilities emitted 11 metric tons of carbon pollution in 2012. These two sources along with transportation are responsible for 85% of total emissions in Oregon.

In my assessment, a successful **Clean Energy and Jobs** bill should:

1. Have an economic basis for greenhouse gas reduction with goals which are based on the best available science;
2. Encourage new jobs in the clean energy sector;
3. Have a Just Transition component which will aid disadvantaged communities;
4. Minimize the number of offsets which can be counterproductive in any carbon reduction program

SB557 is our best chance to create a secure, healthy, and sustainable future for Oregon.

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully submitted,

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