

To: Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
and the House Committee on Energy and the Environment
From: Lynn-Marie Crider
Re: SB 557
Date: February 28, 2017

Chair Dembrow and Committee Members:

For the sake of the people of Oregon and our world, I urge you to enact strong legislation this session to limit greenhouse gas emissions. A market-based solution required by SB 557 is what will work most effectively to address the challenge of climate change in a way that is strong but flexible. I therefore support amending this bill to eliminate the carbon off-set provisions and sending it on to Ways & Means with a do-pass recommendation.

I have heard many say that Oregon is the wrong venue for putting carbon caps. I disagree.

The problem of greenhouse gas emissions and the changes to the climate that the emissions create is something that affects all life on our planet; but Americans, by virtue of our wealth and the nature of our technological infrastructure, make an outsized contribution to the problem. Hence, it is our responsibility to step up to make the changes necessary to overcome the problem.

I recognize that Oregon will be a small contributor to the solution and that it might be better were legislation such as SB 557 enacted at a national or international level. While I agree with that, leadership does not seem likely to come from the Congress of the United States in the coming years—at least until local jurisdictions have paved the way. By implementing carbon caps in the West, we will demonstrate that they can work:

- Our people will support aggressive caps;
- Our people and our businesses will innovate and conserve in response to market incentives;
and
- We will re-invest the proceeds from the emissions market to deploy new technologies and to ensure that people who are affected the most by price increases related to the program and who are unable to avoid those increases by consuming less will receive some kind of assistance so that they do not bear an unfair share of the burden while we transform ourselves to a low-carbon infrastructure and economy.

I believe Oregon can provide this leadership. We must do all we can to avoid the coming catastrophe, even if success is not guaranteed. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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