

From: Dustin Lyons
To: senr.exhibits@state.or.us
Subject: In support of SB557, HB2185 and HB2468
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:57:29 AM

Chair Dembrow, Chair Helm and members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
and the House Energy and Environment Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for passing meaningful climate legislation this session. In my opinion you have before you several bills, including SB557, that will cap and reduce greenhouse gases and give Oregon a great opportunity to create clean energy jobs and transition to a clean energy economy.

Weather patterns have become increasingly erratic with longer, drier summers, snow packs either diminished or melting ahead of traditional spring runoff are causing decreased soil moisture in our now longer and hotter summers. In Oregon and all over the world we are feeling the effects of climate instability that scientists and our own Oregon Climate Change Research Institute have predicted. It would be entirely irresponsible, selfish, and improvident for us to ignore the science and push ahead with business as usual. We have to recognize that economies based upon environmentally destructive fossil fuel extraction/transportation/export; industrial scale clearcut logging; etc. can no longer be part of the equation; that is, if we care to live in and leave a healthy and healthful environment and economy to our progeny.

In 2007, Oregon passed HB 3543 setting goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state to 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 (50.4 million metric tons/year) and at least 75% below 1990 levels by 2050 (14 MMtons/y). The recent report the Oregon Global Warming Commission submitted to the legislature confirmed that we are nowhere near reaching either of those targets with the voluntary approach Oregon has relied on. In fact, the Department of Environmental Quality continues to issue new permits to pollute for the asking having no directive from the state statutes specifically telling them not to. This, in part, has resulted in an uptick from 60.3 MMtons/year in 2014 to 63.4 MMtons in 2015.

At the historic Paris COP21 gathering in December 2015, over 170 countries from around the globe, including the United States, signed the Paris Agreement vowing to keep global temperatures well under 2 degree Celsius and if at all possible under 1.5 degrees C above preindustrial levels. Our own Governor Kate Brown in May of 2015 joined California and now 167 states, provinces and other jurisdictions from 33 countries on 6 continents and representing 35% of the global economy each vowing to reach 2 tons of greenhouse gas emissions per capita (~8 million metric tons for Oregon) in order to reverse global warming and the extreme harm it is starting to have. For years Oregon has agreed that greenhouse gases need to be reduced and yet no legislation has resulted in achieving that outcome. Many of us believe we can wait no longer if we want to avoid irreversible damage and catastrophic costs to our lives and livelihoods.

Again, I strongly urge you to pass MEANINGFUL, comprehensive climate legislation. The time is now...actually it was before, which makes getting it passed now all the more urgent and imperative.

Sincerely,
Dustin Lyons
8103 Hwy 66
Ashland, OR 97520

"If a man's imagination were not so weak, so easily tired, if his capacity for wonder not so limited, he would abandon forever such fantasies of the supernal. He would learn to perceive in water, leaves and silence more than sufficient of the absolute and marvelous, more than enough to console him for the loss of the ancient dreams." --
Edward Abbey