



March 1, 2017

Representative Ken Helm, Chair
Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court Street, NE H-280
Salem, OR 97301

City of Eugene Testimony for HB 2135

The City of Eugene is committed to addressing global climate change and strongly support the passage and implementation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction legislation in Oregon. We believe the best solution to regulating emissions is one that is direct and market-based, providing a statewide mechanism that reflects current climate science.

The 2017 Legislature must take action this session to reduce carbon pollution across the state. The 2017 Oregon Global Warming Commission Report to the Legislature indicates that Oregon's GHG reduction goals will not be met by existing and planned actions, our state is warming with notable consequences, and the state's current policy efforts are insufficient to address the challenges ahead.

Local governments and communities, while leading the way, cannot address this issue without state-wide action. Eugene has taken great strides, starting in 2010 with the development of our Climate and Energy Action Plan, followed by the adoption of the Climate Recovery Ordinance in 2014 to become the first city in the country to put our GHG reduction goals into law, and direction from the Eugene City Council in 2015 to lobby for a statewide carbon pricing policy.

Our community recognizes the need to take immediate action in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with over 75% of Eugene residents agreeing that stronger regulations of GHG emissions are needed. Supportive state policy in areas of carbon pricing, carbon pollution regulation, transportation investments, clean fuel standards and high performance building standards provides an essential and necessary platform for local action.

It is time for the Oregon Legislature to take comprehensive, economy wide action on addressing our climate challenges. The proposed policy options in both chambers provide address this goal. On behalf of the City of Eugene and our community, I urge you to approve this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alan Zelenka".

Alan Zelenka, President
Eugene City Council