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Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:39 PM
To: SENR Exhibits <SENR.Exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: Support for SB 557 - Clean Energy and Jobs Bill

House Committee on Energy and Environment
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Subject: **Support of SB 557 – Clean Energy and Jobs bill**

Dear Committees,

Please pass the Clean Energy and Jobs Bill. The Corvallis City Council adopted a Corvallis Climate Action Plan in December of 2016. Presently a Climate Action Task Force is in the process of putting together an implementation plan. In their CAP, they set a preliminary greenhouse gas reduction target that matches the State of Oregon's. It was noted when deciding on the State's targets that in order to meet their chosen goal, that they will need a state-wide carbon pricing mechanism. Therefore, it is imperative that the Oregon legislature pass a carbon pricing bill. In 2015 the Corvallis City Council passed Resolution 2015-15, in support of carbon pricing, . They realized then, as they do now, that they need state-wide support.

Carbon pricing is an important vehicle that is needed to slow greenhouse gas emissions. The more we emit the more we trigger changes that will be devastating and irreversible. Economists widely agree that reducing carbon emissions is most effectively accomplished by putting a price on them. The Senate Bill 557 will do just that—starting small and rising over time. As a result, Corvallis businesses and residents will be able to plan and make smart decisions to jump start the clean energy economy, which is needed to avoid climate calamity.

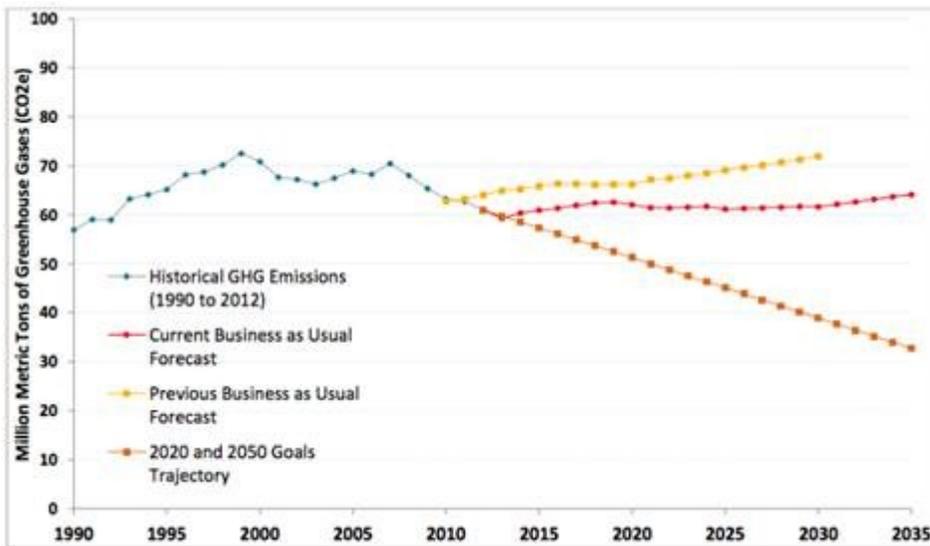
Oregon needs “enforceable” GHG reduction goals.

The Clean Energy and Jobs Bill, SB 557 will enable Oregon to enforce the climate pollution law passed nearly a decade ago. However, it lacks enforceable, science-based reduction goals, which means Oregon will **not** meet its 2020 goal by a wide margin. Whereas the Clean Energy and Jobs Bill's enforceable limits will make it possible to help Oregon meet its goals, as well as seize important opportunities to: transition off dirty fuels, build a thriving clean energy economy, generate broadly shared prosperity and create local, low-carbon jobs.

Why Oregon Needs a Price on Carbon

You might ask “why do we need a price on carbon?” If Oregon had not taken any of the steps it has already taken, emissions would have continued its steep climb (see yellow line in graph below). Oregon’s existing policies have brought its emissions down to a relatively flat trajectory (see red line in graph below). However, for climate stability, and to meet Oregon’s existing goals (see orange line) it needs the “enforceable” GHG reduction goals that the Clean Energy and Jobs Bill contains.

The red line is the one we’re on now. We do not want Oregon to follow the yellow line, because it will take us to a planet “straight out of science fiction [1]. So, I am thankful for the Clean Energy and Jobs Bill, because it will put us on the orange line which will send us to a brighter future toward climate stability.



Respectfully submitted,

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[1] Bill McKibben, “Global Warming’s Terrifying New Math.” <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/global-warmings-terrifying-new-math-20120719> Carbon emissions are growing by roughly three percent a year. With this trajectory Fatih Birol, the International Energy Agency’s chief economist, explains “the trend is perfectly in line with a temperature increase of about six degrees.”