

Lisa Cohn  
Portland, Oregon  
97210

Testimony: SB 557

My name is Lisa Cohn, and I'm testifying as a writer who has covered energy and environment for more than two decades and as a citizen who's worried about the effects of climate change on our planet. I'm also an Oregonian proud of my state's reputation as an environmental leader.

I support SB 557 because an economy-wide, science based cap on greenhouse gas emissions is an effective way to fight greenhouse gas emissions and climate change—as other states, like California, have proven. In California, for example, the Environmental Defense Fund, predicts that with full implementation, California's cap-and-trade and transportation regulations will yield benefits from avoided health costs, improved energy security, and reduced social costs of carbon valued at \$10.4 billion by 2020 and \$23.1 billion by 2025.

Whether or not you believe in climate change, it's hard not to believe in the power of clean energy to create jobs and boost our economy. Under a cap-and-invest program in Oregon, the money raised would be invested in clean energy.

Right now, in Oregon, the numbers of clean energy jobs are growing at an 11 percent annual rate, faster than state employment as a whole, according to Renew Oregon.

In Washington State, Four of the state's 11 wind projects provide enough clean, renewable energy to power 162,000 average Northwestern homes. In addition to providing annual royalty payments to rural landowners, the wind farms generate up to \$4 million in property tax revenues, and over 65 new family wage jobs, according to the Renewable Northwest Project.

And nationally, government statistics released in recent weeks, showed that more than 3 million people in the US now work for the clean energy industry. This is based on 2016 data released by the US DOE in its second annual US Energy and Employment Report.

Along with the release of that report came these statistics:

--America's renewable energy sector attracted nearly \$100 billion in investment over the last two years, said the American Council on Renewable Energy in a press release.

--Wind turbine technician is now the fastest-growing job description in the US, said the American Wind Energy Assoc.

--The solar energy industry added one in every 50 new jobs in the economy last year and now employs 260,000 people in the US, said the Solar Energy Industries Assoc.

With a cap-and-invest system, we can lower greenhouse gases, create a greener Oregon, and invest in job-producing clean energy. And once again, Oregon will lead the rest of the US in environmental leadership, continuing to make me proud to call Oregon my home.

P.S. The bill currently allows for up to 50% of required reductions of GHGs to be offsets from forestry, agriculture or other sectors. I think the best number would be zero offsets. Oregon needs true reductions in fossil fuel burning. Offsets from forestry and agriculture permit the continued use of fossil fuels.