

3/1/17

Hello-

I would like to present my views on about HB 557, The Clean Energy and Jobs Bill. I fully support this bill and am urging you to do so as well. The following are but a few examples of why this bill should become law-

- Climate change is real. It has been documented by an overwhelming majority of scientists from around the globe, time and time again. Yes, there are a handful of naysayers, but I believe they have personal agendas that have nothing to do with the science at hand.
- As such, we are irrevocably changing this planet for the worse. For us living in the Pacific Northwest, NASA sites that, "changes in the timing of streamflow will reduce water supplies for competing demands. Sea level rise, erosion, inundation, risks to infrastructure and increasing ocean acidity pose major threats. Increasing wildfire, insect outbreaks and tree diseases are causing widespread tree die-off."
- Even if you are in disagreement with the scientific community regarding climate change, the use of and dependence on fossil fuels poses huge costs to the environment and its inhabitants. Looking at just the cost to human health, the publication, Scientific American, calculates the following-
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- U.S. Health Burden Caused by Particulate Pollution from Fossil-Fueled Power Plants	
- Illness	- Mean Number of Cases
- Asthma (hospital admissions)	- 3,020
- Pneumonia (hospital admissions)	- 4,040
- Asthma (emergency room visits)	- 7,160
- Cardiovascular ills (hospital admissions)	- 9,720
- Chronic bronchitis	- 18,600
- Premature deaths	- 30,100
- Acute bronchitis	- 59,000
- Asthma attacks	- 603,000
- Lower respiratory ills	- 630,000

- Upper respiratory ills	- 679,000
- Lost workdays	- 5.13 million
- Minor restricted-activity days	- 26.3 million

- We as Oregonians should be leading the charge for renewable, clean energy, both to set an example for the rest of the country and to be on the cutting edge in the growth, science and business of renewables. It's happening now. California has some of the most progressive environmental laws. They get 40% of their power from renewables and are 40% more energy efficient than the rest of the country. Their economy has not suffered, rather their economy is growing faster than the U.S. economy. I want our state to reap the vast benefits that green technology has to offer.

We need to put an end to carbon emissions in Oregon and this bill is a good first step. I want polluters to have to pay a price for their negative impact on our environment and on us. Monies generated by this bill should be put back into communities most impacted by pollution. I want a clean and healthy Oregon.

Sincerely,

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