

Testimony by BENJAMIN WALKER, WEST LINN HIGH SCHOOL LOBBY CLUB

Before the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Of the OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 1, 2017

Mister Chair, members of the committee, for the record my name is Ben Walker and I represent the West Linn High School Lobby Club. In this club, we support and lobby for bills that we, as young people, feel strongly for and want to see go through in order to make Oregon, and the country a better place.

The proposition presented by Representative Holvey and Barnhart will replace old emission goals with new ones that more strictly regulates carbon emissions across the state. I strongly urge you to vote yes on this bill which will replace existing emission goals and be a tremendous step forward for our climate.

As of now, climate change is the most important debate, with the longest lasting potential impacts to our, and future generations. This is a very real problem and we need to act now. 18 different scientific associations agree that greenhouse gasses emitted by humans are the largest propellant for climate change. With the global temperatures rising due to our mishandling of our environment, sea levels have risen seven inches in the last 100 years, which is more than the last 2000 years combined.

Our decisions on climate change today, and in the near future will not just affect your generation making the decisions. These goals and ways to reduce carbon emissions will affect us, as young people for the rest of our lives and our children's lives. We as a lobby club, have come here to try to vouch and protect the environment for our generation, and the younger generation so when we grow up, we can live in a world like it is today without massive constant droughts that put global food production and supply in jeopardy and force hundreds of thousands out of their homes, or any other scary things that can, and will happen if we don't take action soon.

Now is the time to make companies in Oregon limit harmful emissions and play a key role in helping the environment. Please vote yes to help this bill go through and protect the climate for years to come.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak and appear before you. I'd be happy to answer any of your questions.