

April 12, 2017

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

[Senator Michael Dembrow](#), Chair
senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: SB 1007-1, Climate Test - SUPPORT

Dear Senators Dembrow, Olson, Baertschiger, Prozanski, and Roblan:

Climate change poses unprecedented threats to human civilization. During your term in Salem you've given voice to the urgency of those threats and have taken important steps to address greenhouse gas pollution. But we and the global community haven't yet done enough to prevent greenhouse gas emissions from reaching record levels and accelerating the world toward climate catastrophe. In December of 2015, 195 nations came together in Paris and pledged to limit global warming to 2 degrees C or less. In light of that global commitment to take action to curb fossil fuel use, we urge you to demonstrate strong climate leadership by enacting a "Climate Test" for proposed large-scale fossil fuel infrastructure projects.

The Pacific Northwest stands squarely between Asian energy markets and large fossil fuel deposits in the interior of North America. In order to reach these markets, energy companies have attempted to build a range of large fossil fuel infrastructure projects in Oregon and other PNW states. Between 2009 and 2014, at least four new facilities were proposed whose sum total of fuel CO₂ emissions, when burned, would equal 69.1 million metric tons per year. In contrast, the Oregon DEQ estimates that the sum total of CO₂ emissions generated by the entire state of Oregon in 2014 amounted to approximately 60.0 million metric tons per year.

Each proposal has been subjected to a patchwork of regulations by a number of different jurisdictions, none of which take climate change considerations into account. An Oregon Climate Test is needed to ensure these considerations based on best available science are at the heart of decision-making on future fossil fuel infrastructure project proposals.

A Climate Test would require that qualifying fossil fuel infrastructure project proposals be subject to an environmental impact statement (EIS) with full lifecycle accounting of a project's greenhouse gas emissions, coupled with an economic analysis that will show whether a project is viable in a world where climate goals are met.

A rigorous Oregon Climate Test will provide Oregon agencies with the tools to more accurately assess the economic and environmental impacts of major project and permit decisions. As policymakers take action to incorporate a climate test into their long-term decision making process, the credibility of that test will rest on its adherence to the following broad principles:

- **Energy decisions must be guided by climate science.**
- **Decision-makers must develop and consider models that are consistent with a global economic transition away from high-carbon fossil fuels. Environmental review processes must assess the need for projects and policies in the context of global energy supply and demand scenarios consistent with international climate goals.**
- **Environmental review processes must assess a project or policy's greenhouse gas emissions.**

A Climate Test is a powerful, efficient and inexpensive tool that would ensure that climate and economic considerations - based on best available science - are the foundation of decision-making on fossil fuel infrastructure projects. Its power lies in its ability to reject fossil fuel infrastructure projects based on climate impacts; its efficiency in its coordination of existing regulatory processes and clear, concise review criteria, and its lack of expense by the requirement that applicants pay for its implementation. By adopting a Climate Test, Oregon would continue its global leadership role in climate policy, working towards a safe and just future for all Oregonians and for all of our fellow global citizens.

For these reasons we, the undersigned, call on you to pass Senate Bill SB 1007 with the -1 amendment, also known as the "Climate Test" Bill.

Sincerely,

| <u>Groups</u> | <u>Individuals /Businesses</u> |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Sierra Club – Oregon Chapter | Ron Schaaf |
| 350 Eugene | Deb Evans |
| League of Women Voters of Oregon | Stacey McLaughlin |
| Douglas County Global Warming Coalition | Craig McLaughlin |
| 350PDX | Patricia Weber |
| 350 Corvallis | Jan Besseling |
| Climate Action Coalition | Catharina Besseling |
| First Unitarian Church-Community For Earth | Kathleen Manley |
| Eugene Interfaith Earth Keepers | Bill Walsh |
| Physicians for Social Responsibility | Shirley Weathers |
| Justice Network of Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene | Stephen Bender |
| Occupy Interfaith Eugene/Springfield | Christine Haynie |
| Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice | Dustin Lyons |
| Climate Justice Committee, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis | Tera Ptacek |
| Rogue Climate | Alkahest Leather (business) |
| Hair on Fire Oregon | Larry Mangan |
| Pipeline Awareness Southern Oregon | Sylvia Mangan |
| Oregon Environmental Council | Arnella Hennig, MD |
| Onward Oregon | Renee Cote |
| Southern Oregon Climate Action Now | Gretchen King |
| 350 Salem OR | Laurie Dougherty |

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| Western Environmental Law Center | Linda Wallmark |
| Waterkeeper Alliance | Nancy Pfeiler |
| Southern Oregon Pachamama Alliance Community | Ourania Marcandonatou |
| | Mark Newberger |
| | Jane Mara |
| | Barbara Brown |
| | Kenneth E Cates |
| | Kristine Cates |
| | John Shoffner |
| | Debbie Shoffner |
| | Gwen C Davies |
| | Vince Zauskey |
| | Bonnie McKinlay |
| | Marcella Laudani |
| | Alan Laudani |
| | Hal Blomquist |
| | Donna Blomquist |
| | Trish Haas |
| | Lori Lester |
| | Lesley Adam |
| | Andrew B. Napell |
| | Suzanne Dickson |

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| | Jim Coonan/C2 Cattle Co |
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