



Testimony Submitted In Favor of SB557 and HB2135

February 28, 2017

The Geos Institute keeps natural and human communities whole in the face of a changing climate. Our work involves translating climate change science for decision-makers so that they can make sound decisions that help us meet the challenge of climate change. We focus specifically on decisions made regarding forest and river management and community decision-making. Based in Ashland and with a satellite office in Portland, Oregon has been one of the primary geographic focal areas of our climate change work for over a decade.

We applaud the State of Oregon's efforts to determine the best way to address changing climate conditions and to move our state forward on that path through legislation. Our nation needs leadership on this issue at the state level and, as has been the case with many critically important issues in the past, Oregon is stepping forward. We offer these comments to assist Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee and the House Energy and Environment Committee in determining the best climate change policy for the people of Oregon.

Capping greenhouse gas emissions is a very important step in the effort to ensure a safe climate for future generations. SB557/HB2135 is a particularly strong initial effort because it places a meaningful cap on all Greenhouse Gas emissions rather than just carbon dioxide, it includes the provision that full life cycle emissions will be incorporated when that becomes feasible, all revenues are allocated to activities that serve the purpose of the bill in reducing climate pollution, revenues will be used to promote renewable energy development in disadvantaged communities (a particular benefit to some of our rural areas), it provides appropriate transition support for dislocated workers, and it recognizes that some communities are disproportionately harmed by the impacts of climate change and can similarly be disadvantaged by proposed solutions.

We urge passage of SB557/HB2135 out of committee so that it may be taken up by the full Oregon legislature.

Submitted on behalf of the Geos Institute by Tonya Graham, Executive Director.