



February 14, 2019

Senator Dembrow, Co-Chair  
Representative Power, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

Re: Environment Oregon supports House Bill 2020

Dear Co-Chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Power and Members of the Committee,

Environment Oregon supports House Bill 2020, the Oregon Climate Action Plan.

Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based environmental advocacy organization working for clean air, clean water and open space. We have tens of thousands of members from all corners of the state who have made it clear that they are ready for Oregon to take strong action in the fight against climate change.

Years ago, many of us thought of global warming as something that would happen “someday.” As it turns out, “someday” is now. The updated [National Climate Assessment](#), released by the Trump Administration in November 2018, found that climate change is already impacting the Northwest with record-breaking warm and dry years causing record-low snowpack resulting in water scarcity, larger wildfires and warmer ocean temperatures leading to shifts in marine ecosystems and more.

Environment Oregon recently launched an online storytelling project called, “[This is Climate Change](#),” which shares the stories of Oregonians who are already experiencing the impacts of climate change. Their stories are a harrowing reminder of what’s at stake in the fight against our changing climate: the things that make Oregon such a special place, and the quality of our lives and those of future generations.

Nobody, of course, wants to leave future generations a world where heat waves, floods, droughts and worse are the normal, everyday events in an increasingly dangerous world. The good news is that we still have some time to stave off the worst, and we know exactly what we need to do: act quickly and boldly to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

If we accept, as we must, the broad scientific consensus that our pollution is accelerating these changes, then this is our challenge: to stop putting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and to repower our

lives with clean, renewable energy such as solar, wind, energy efficiency and zero emission transportation.

The Climate Action Plan accomplishes two important tasks: it sets ambitious targets for greenhouse gas pollution reduction, putting us in compliance with the Paris Climate Agreement and what basic science tells us we need to do, and forces the biggest polluters to pay, providing funding for programs that will help Oregon reduce and adapt to the impacts of climate change. We urge you to strengthen the bill by removing the exemptions for some of the biggest polluters in the state.

Passing a strong version of the Oregon Climate Action Plan would make Oregon a leader in the fight against climate change, and set a good example for other states to follow.

We are, after all, a state of pioneers. From the passage of the Bottle Bill and public beaches to the more recent coal to clean law, Oregon has been at the forefront of many environmental advancements.

We urge you to pass the strongest, most ambitious and visionary version of this bill.

Sincerely,

Celeste Meiffren-Swango  
State Director  
Environment Oregon