

Testimony on HB 2020 by Peter Hayes, Hyla Woods, 2330 NW Belgrave Ave., Portland, OR 97210, peter@hylawoods.com, 971-678-9466 on Feb. 15, 2019
(shared at hearing in Salem on Feb. 15, 2019)

Co-chairs Denbrow and Power and Members of the Committee

My name is Peter Hayes. I speak as both an Oregon citizen and as President of Hyla Woods, a family owned forest and sawmill in the northern Coast Range. I am here to urge you to pass a strong version of HB 2020. My comments are informed by many things, including my service as a member of the state Board of Forestry and our experience running a family business that is already experiencing what scientists tell us are impacts of climate change. Our family has lived and worked here for over 170 years and our involvement with forests and milling spans six generations.

Why Pass Strong Legislation?

1. **A Serious Issue** – Climate change is a serious issue that demands attention and action – particularly by government leaders. Humans can change course and now is the time to do it. No legislation will be perfect and we are called to do our best and continue to improve.
2. **Action Required** – Those of us who grow things for livings in Oregon depend on a reliable climate for future viability and vitality. While the legislation will present us with new challenges, they pale when compared with the challenges of continued inaction by government.
3. **Unique Potential** – Oregon’s forests and other working lands have uniquely high potential for mitigation through management that prioritizes sequestration of carbon. Many of us have practiced and advocated for this for years, but we badly need the help of public policy to reach toward this potential. Legislation can help boost investment in sensible mitigation projects while also driving market-based solutions. We need and welcome that.

My Request –

1. Pass it
2. Make it strong – Work to ensure that it stays as effective as possible as it moves through the legislative process.

As Oregonians we pride ourselves on our legacy of taking bold and visionary leadership when circumstances demand it; this is one of those times. We are called on to prove that we deserve that legacy. This legislation is critical for Oregon, Oregonians – present and future, and for the world beyond. Thank you for your consideration and for your service