

My name is Gary Wallmark. I'm a member of 350 Salem OR, the local affiliate of [350.org](http://350.org), the international grass-roots climate action group.

We have a BIG problem. The climate crisis is growing. It's here now. It's worse than scientists had predicted. And things will get worse yet if we don't take immediate dramatic action.

LITTLE Oregon can't solve the problem by itself. We need a collective response to this BIG problem.

Some say LITTLE Oregon's contribution is so small that we shouldn't even try. We should leave it to the BIG countries, like BIG USA. Even BIG USA can't solve this BIG problem by itself, but it can exert leadership and get others to follow.

But right now BIG USA is running away from the climate crisis rather than leading the world toward a response. BIG USA is running to the rear rather than to the front.

So what should LITTLE Oregon do about this BIG PROBLEM?

LITTLE Oregon should run to the front rather than hide in the rear. Others are watching LITTLE Oregon. LITTLE Oregon needs to step up and lead in the solution to this BIG problem.

It's kind of like voting. I vote not because my LITTLE vote will determine the outcome. (I've never been in an election decided by one vote.) I cast my LITTLE vote because it's the right thing to do to help lead my government in the right direction.

LITTLE Oregon should do the same thing. We're all part of the BIG problem and should be part of the BIG solution. Who knows, LITTLE Oregon might even inspire BIG USA to run to the front and start leading for a change.

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