

From: [John Christensen](#)
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Cc: Sen.ChuckThomsen@state.or.us; [Rep. Williams](#)
Subject: SB 1530: Testimony in support of bold climate action
Date: Sunday, February 2, 2020 11:34:26 PM

Dear Senators,

My name is John Christensen. I'm a small woodland owner in Corbett, Oregon, where my wife Julie and I manage a forested farm. I appreciate the work your committee is doing to pass meaningful legislation that addresses climate change.

SB 1530 is a step in the right direction, but it is not strong enough. **In its current form the bill does not address the urgency of the climate emergency facing the earth today.** It does not position Oregon to do its fair share in reversing over a century of human addiction to fossil fuels and the dire consequences to our planet of ever-increasing releases of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

The **current concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is 412 parts per million (PPM)**--way beyond the target of 350 PPM that is considered the upper safe limit. As a result each year eclipses previous years as the hottest year on record. Climate scientists are sounding the warning that without significant global efforts to control greenhouse gas emissions, the earth could soon pass a tipping point that would lead to a much higher global average temperature than any interglacial period in the last 1.2 million years--a runaway "Hothouse Earth" effect.

Of the many impacts of this warming, let me just address its **consequences for human health**. These include heat-related illnesses and deaths; malnutrition due to loss of cropland; the spread of infectious diseases to wider geographical ranges, both in latitude and altitude, as mosquito-borne illnesses follow the warming trends; longer allergy seasons; cardio-respiratory problems due to increased ground-level ozone concentrations and smoke from wildfires; increase in water-related diseases as water scarcity and rising sea levels lead to freshwater contamination; algal blooms with associated cholera outbreaks; and the threat to human health and well-being by the more violent storms associated with warming.

Here are some ways SB 1530 needs strengthening:

1. The statewide GHG goal of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 is too weak to address the crisis facing us. **We need to be 100% carbon free by 2050 to have a chance of lowering carbon dioxide to 350 PPM.**
2. This bill provides **too many giveaways to commercial and industrial users of natural gas** which allows them to continue polluting as usual.
3. The transportation portion of the bill needs improvement. **The geographic phase-in leaves rural areas of the state out of the carbon pricing program**--possibly denying Oregon the opportunity of participating in the larger carbon offset markets of the Western Climate Initiative. This rural exemption would also mean that rural areas would not benefit from investments from revenues generated by the sale of emissions allowances.

There should be a provision in the bill that allows small woodland owners to participate in the sale of forest carbon credits on the larger regional offset market. Many small woodland owners in Oregon would like to take advantage of the market in offsets due to the large amounts of carbon sequestered in their forests when they forego harvesting.

In conclusion, my strong concern about the concessions to polluters contained in this current version of SB1530 is that **there seems to be an underlying assumption that no one should feel any pain as we transition our society to a carbon-free economy.** Recovery from any addiction is painful, but the consequences of a half-hearted attempt at recovery are more addiction and worse pain ahead for the indefinite future. It is a burden we all must carry if we are to leave a healthy earth to our descendants.

Thank you for your continued work on this vital legislation.

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