

From: [Michael Mitton](#)
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Cc: [Sen Steiner Hayward](#); [Rep Greenlick](#)
Subject: SB 1530 – Oral Testimony – Climate Emergency
Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 6:09:33 AM

RE: Feb. 4 Oral Testimony – Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Chair Dembrow, Vice-chair Olsen, Members of the Committee,

Trying to follow all the bad news about the increasing effects of global warming is like trying to drink from a fire hose. There's no way to express the magnitude of that in 2 minutes, so I'll just pick one example. A new study released last week by shows ocean acidification is already dissolving the shells and damaging the organs of young Dungeness crab, Oregon's most valuable commercial fishery. Researchers with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration were surprised to see acidic water having so much impact so soon. This is a recurring theme we are now seeing from scientists around the world. The impacts of the climate crisis are more severe and coming at us faster than was originally predicted.

One thing is clear. The longer we wait to address climate disruption, the harder it will be to mitigate and the more it will cost. SB-1530 recognizes that reality. It is a balanced and carefully crafted bill that has incorporated years of work with all stakeholders. It includes ideas from legislators of both parties. Like any good bill it does not give everybody everything they want. The climate emergency will affect all Oregonians, but rural and low income communities are feeling its impacts first and hardest. SB-1530 includes many protections for those groups while still reducing GHG emissions.

Opponents of the bill say it will increase the price of fossil fuels and some economists agree. It's not complicated, adding an additional cost to the fuels that cause pollution, makes it more expensive to continuing polluting. SB-1530 recognizes that economic effect on people and goes to great lengths to minimize it, particularly in rural and low income communities. Other economists don't predict much economic impact from carbon pricing. But whatever the cost, it will be lost in history... completely blown away by the staggering cost of not doing enough to mitigate the worst effects of the climate emergency.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for SB-1530. The time to pass this crucial legislation is long overdue.

Michael Mitton
Voter