

Senate Bill 1530

Good afternoon distinguished Senators. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on SB 1530, which I support. My name is David Slawson. I reside in West Linn, Oregon. I support clean fuels, electrification of Oregon's transportation system and renewable energy technology solutions to decarbonize our society.

Oregon lawmakers have a great opportunity to support the states transition from a wasteful carbon based economy to a clean more prosperous one. An economy that works within the limits of our natural environment with no one left out. It is time to correct the market failure, in which polluters profit from environmental damage while losses are effectively being subsidized by society at large. I believe Oregon should ban the sale of ICE vehicles starting in 2024. Particularly since alternatives exist that are cheaper.

Lets face it. Burning fossil fuel is the problem. It threatens our way of life and its societal costs are no longer bearable. It is dangerous and deadly. It kills over 7 million people a year 10% are children under 5 years of age. In the United States the annual societal costs from burning fossil fuels is in excess of two trillion dollars.

Oregon transportation sector contributes one quarter of all carbon pollution in the state and is responsible for the majority of public health illnesses. Those attributable externality costs include physical and emotional health impacts, asthma, heart disease, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, birth defects, lead and mercury poisoning, cognitive impairment, lower IQ, disability, neurobehavioral problems, property damage, and reductions in the productivity of our ecosystems. Consumers pay these hidden costs through personal income losses, degraded quality of life, higher insurance premiums,

compromised health, early death and preventable expenditures of our taxes.

The gap between what is and what could be has never been greater in all of history. As in all new ideas, “since the beginning of humanity is to express the deepest feelings and beliefs, to elicit emotion, to anger, to amuse, to inspire is necessary to advance civilization. All truth passes through three stages: First: it is ridiculed, Second: it is violently opposed, Third: it is accepted as being self-evident”.

In order for Senate Bill 1530 to be a more broadly accepted we need to take into consideration those who are opposed to SB1530 and those who are in favor of SB1530. I believe that with better understanding and modifications to Senate Bill 1530 current complaints against the bill can be remedied.

Those opposed to SB1530:

People **opposed** generally feel that the folks in Salem should not be dictating legislation but rather have a public vote. Also the amount of fossil fuel burned is not enough to make a difference in the global emissions taking place. And that Oregon air is already pretty clean. And that because people are on a fixed income or they have a small business with marginal profits- They can't survive with this cap and trade fuel tax of .22 cents. Whether they are in the transportation business, logging, farming or ranching they don't want more government programs in their lives. Their view is that they are already overtaxed and don't need another tax imposed on them because of its economic impact on their personal lives and or their businesses. Some individuals in opposition believe that there is no emergency climate crisis.

Those in favor of SB1530:

The people in **favor** generally view SB1530 first and foremost as a way to reduce fossil fuel emissions to avert catastrophic environmental destruction.

They're thinking about the future for their children and grandchildren. They believe that is unfair for the fossil fuel industry to pass on societal environmental destruction and healthcare costs onto consumers. These people see the cap and trade program as a way for fossil fuel entities to begin to reflect its true costs. They support the complete electrification of Oregon's transportation system. They are happily willing to pay the fuel price increase for the good of all Oregonians. And have those dollars go to support those marginal communities most impacted by climate change and other financial hardships. Those in favor want everyone to be part of the solution as opposed to be stuck in being part of the problem.

Those in favor of SB 1530 are aware that Oregon could burn like the Eastern Seaboard of Australia that killed dozens of people, laid to waste 25,000 square miles of farm and forest land, reduced livestock numbers by 20% and killed a billion animals living in nature. And they know that you can't recover from such catastrophe in your lifetime. Those in favor believe that cutting carbon emissions will lower healthcare costs, insurance costs and our taxes over time. So the added .22 cents today will be saving every Oregonian hundreds of dollars tomorrow.

In the end personal beliefs will not change the fact that a climate crisis is at our doorstep. Due to increased levels of carbon in the atmosphere we have weapon-ized nature. We now experience rain bombs, cyclone bombs, snow bursts, deadly heat waves, heat blobs, fire tornados, extended droughts, sky rivers, super and mega storms everywhere. Twenty thousand cold snap records have been broken as well as 40,000 high temperature records.

Senate Bill 1530 must take into account the full extent of societal costs into the carbon math calculus. Which is in everybody's interest. Done right the goal should be to create a bigger bag of money to meet the needs of our marginalized communities and those most greatly impacted by environmental degradation. As well as those market sectors that will be economically impacted by SB 1530 cap and trade policy. As an option SB1530 could have a rebate provision whereby someone who demonstrates business viability risks or family hardships could receive a partial or total rebate of dollars paid as a result of SB1530's passage.

Money from SB1530 could fund reforestation work for those in the logging industry, fund conventional farmers to farm organically earning premium pricing and paid to sequester carbon in the soil. Utilizing a more sustainable long-term business model. Ranchers could use moveable live stock corrals to restore the land and improve operational outputs and profits on livestock pricing. Those businesses in fossil fuel supply lines will have to begin transition to clean fuels or participate in the newly emerging transportation electrification business. It is a known fact we will no longer be burning fossil fuel. This is because cheaper alternative options exist today and market forces are taking over. If you're in the fossil fuel business you will face a business collapse. So it is better to use SB1530 as a transition opportunity for a soft landing and migrate to a new clean economy.

If the fossil fuel interests in Oregon were good neighbors they would embrace the true costs of their product and lobby for an added price to support their transition costs into the clean energy economy. Avoiding additional law suits from falsely misrepresenting the dangerous emission

risks. No one should be getting a free pass or escape paying for pollution caused externality costs nor should SB 1530 be watered down.

Twenty-seven Washington DC senators signed a letter demanding President Trump withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement. Records show they received \$10,694,284 from fossil fuel special interests. Senators James Inhofe from Oklahoma, Mitch McConnell from Kentucky and Ted Cruz from Texas received about 45% of those funds. You have to ask yourself did these legislatures put the American public's health and national security needs above special interests and their own political careers? **No they did not.** It is my hope that this legislative body will put the health, security and economic interests of Oregonians above all else and pass SB1530.

We all breathe the same air, drink the same water and source our food in the same way. It is time to stop pitting a person's employment and livelihood needs against a family's good health. It is time to provide jobs that promote a clean economy. It is my hope that we can move beyond divisiveness and fear and move to unity and collaboration making SB 1530 a stellar piece of legislation that all Oregonians can be proud of.

Humanity is at a crossroads with limited time to act. A great effort must be undertaken for the survival of our species and to prevent a future of an unrecognizable and uninhabitable planet. No person or area of this country will be safe from impact. Legislatures must immediately put the brakes on the burning of fossil. There is no time for half measures or delays.