

From: [Caroline OBrien](#)
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
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Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Olsen, Members of the Committee

My name is Caroline O'Brien. I'm a resident of rural Southern Oregon attending Southern Oregon University where I study Environmental Science and Policy, Business and Communications. I testify today on behalf of the 1500 Southern Oregonians who are Southern Oregon Climate Action Now.

I have explored climate science extensively and conclude that its findings offer an extremely credible vision of the future should we fail to reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases entering, and in, our atmosphere. This future, my future, is alarming.

As a rural Oregonian, I challenge the testimony of Timber Unity opponents arguing that we should not take climate action. I can see the warming temperatures, reducing snow-pack, increasing risks of droughts and floods that are impacting Southern Oregon **and** the increasing wildfire risk. Our forests are not threatened by taking action to reduce emissions. Quite the contrary, if we fail to reverse the current runaway climate change trajectory, our forests will likely be destroyed within decades.

Timber Industry folks should look at the climatic needs of forest species and realize that a business as usual climate future threatens, and may eliminate, their forests, their industry **and** their livelihood. Anyone concerned that their children should enjoy an Oregon as beautiful and endowed with the richness of natural resources as the Oregon we know and love, should demand action - not oppose it.

To those who argue that Oregon's emissions are trivial compared to those of the U.S. and the world, I urge a deeper moral reasoning. We don't pick up our trash because one banana skin - or whatever - will destroy the forest; we do it because it's the right thing to do. We also do it because we know that if everyone left their garbage in the forest, pretty soon that forest would be knee deep in trash. We pack out our garbage because we know everyone should be doing the same. By the same token, we should reduce our greenhouse gas emissions because it's the right thing to do, **AND** because we know that unless we reduce our emissions, we cannot ask others across the globe to reduce theirs.

Opponents of climate action argue that reducing emissions will bust our economy. What they don't understand is that failing to reduce emissions will bust our agriculture, our fisheries, and our forests. And what will that cost? Besides, we can look at other states where greenhouse gas emissions pricing has been imposed and we can see their economies are doing better than surrounding states without such programs.

Please establish a strong, meaningful climate action program in Oregon.

Thank you.

Caroline O'Brien

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