

My name is Ann Shannon.

I have lived in Portland for 48 years. I am a grandmother and author, a global human rights and Earth advocate. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to pass SB 1530.

I used to think the real effects of the climate crises would hit in my granddaughter's lifetime. I never dreamed it would be in mine! But climate emergency is here! And now that we have a National Administration that is hell bent on accelerating environmental and climate damage, it is more critical than ever that Oregon step into the breach and act meaningfully, unflinchingly, rigorously and courageously to do everything in our power to effectively address climate change.

How do I know climate change is real?

In 1994, I moved for a year to a cabin in the foothills of Sierra Nevada, 25 miles outside of Nevada City, California. I walked the forest there every night until 2 or 3 a.m., and often until dawn. The woods then were robust and healthy. Nothing short of magical. They sang with life and beauty. That ultimately led to my memoir, *Entering the River Naked: Field Notes from the Feminine Wild*.

Then in August 2018, after choking on smoke for weeks in Portland and Seattle, I set out again for those woods for 10 weeks. I had visions losing myself in the forest once again. I continued choking on smoke virtually from Portland to Redding, California. I-5 had just reopened in the Siskiyou. Fires were still burning on both sides of the highway. (Smoke from remnant fires on each side of I-5 persisted throughout the 3 round trips I made between Portland and Nevada City between August and October 1st, 2018.)

A sickening foreboding took hold on that first trip down to Nevada City. After 400 miles in dense smoke, on the remaining 150 miles from Redding to Nevada City, I was horrified to see 95-99% of the trees visible from the road were either a dead ash gray or brown, or dying! All I could think about was how little it would take to have it all go up in flames. I was staring at a desert in the making! I cannot tell you how haunting that was.

There was no joy or peace to be had in walking the forest outside of Nevada City that summer. Everywhere I turned, I was confronted by stands of 20 to 50, 70 to 120 stripped, ghostly skeletons of pine. I couldn't stop counting them. They included saplings to mature, 75'-100' trees in the same stands. Trees that were still alive were ragged, obviously clinging to life, with few needles in the pine or crispy thin, more-grey-than-green leaves in those that were deciduous. The real rarity was coming across a

single tree or stand of trees that were vibrant and green. Loss and grief, the unshakable sense of impending doom, became my constant companions in the woods.

Five weeks after returning to Portland, The Camp Fire swept through the area I had driven through. Burning 153,000 acres, destroying 14,000 homes, killing 85 people, it decimated the town of Paradise, CA. Paradise (only 40 miles from Nevada City) now has 2,034 residents. 90% of its traumatized 26,800 residents chose not to return after the fire.

Which begs the question: What jobs, exactly, do the logging industry, its workers, and the GOP think they are preserving by opposing SB 1530? Failure to take meaningful climate action, when each year is warmer than the last, ultimately condemns swaths of Oregon to a future akin to that of Paradise. Trees weakened by heat and drought, become diseased. The day will certainly come, not far away, when Oregonians, too, like California and Australia, will be encircled by fire. Today I look at Oregon's forests and at the trees that grace almost every neighborhood in Portland and know, it would only take a week or two of 100+ degree weather and a good East wind for Oregon to have its own Paradise. Five to 10 years down the road exponentially interactive consequences of climate change become irreversible. -- all security in our economy and jobs, our homes, and our health, could easily become nothing but a memory.

I beg every Republican legislator to set their fear and preconceptions aside to honestly and courageously consider the reality of the wolf at our door. To face up to the magnitude of the escalating climate emergency bearing down on us. With every climate headline and unprecedented wildfire, life is screaming at us, trying to wake us up. The Earth is pleading with us to turn the ship around before it is too late. The warning sirens are blaring, whether or not we choose to hear them. *If we do not act boldly now, none of us will escape personally living through the carnage and the ultimate cost that climate change will inevitably exact economically, physically, spiritually and emotionally. There will be no escape:* all security in our economy and jobs, in our homes and our health, and in our ways of life are on their way to becoming nothing but a memory.

The urgency of the threat has become a barrage. With every new level of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere and every new temperature record broken. With every report on bee, insect, bird and species loss that constitute an assault on our very ability to survive. With every report on glyphosate and other carcinogens in the food on our grocery shelves and our waterways. With every new study on the pace of shrinking glaciers and ice-caps and melting permafrost. With every new pipeline laid and oil spill (they all leak and poison our waterways and soil) -- and every courageous

effort of indigenous peoples to stop them in -14°F, -34° temperature, only to be ignored. With every Amazonian indigenous leader murdered for trying to protect his/her ancestral land. With every permit for mining our public lands. With every new insanity the Trump Administration is allowing: asbestos, unlabeled, for God's sake! Industrial dumping of forever chemicals in our water! With every clear cut; every article on fracking and its billions of gallons of poisonous waste water (in a world desperately short of potable water) released into the Gulf or used to water crops we will one day eat. With every reversal of environmental protection air, water, and soil by the Trump Administration.

What hubris are we indulging in, what lies are we telling ourselves, when we think the forests of Oregon any job security in the era of millions of acres burned, with many fires decimating entire communities? In every fire season, massive wildfires become ever more frequent, ever more devastating and costly, around our heating globe: (Arizona (1 million acres, 2011); Montana (1.29 million acres, 2017), Alaska (5 million acres, 2015; 2.5 million, 2019); California (4.6 million, 2019; 8.8 million, 2018; 10 million, 2017; 5.4 million, 2016); Canada (Alberta: 1.985 million, 2019; British Columbia: 3.3 million, 2018 and 1.2 million, 2017); Argentina (2.47 million, 2017); Portugal (1.3 million, 2017); Greece, 1.235 million, 2017); Indonesia (2.1 million, 2019); Brazilian Amazon (17.5 million, 2019); Bolivian Rainforest (1.8 million, 2019); Australia (25 million, 2019-2020).

To delay is to ensure devastating suffering and loss for everyone everywhere.

Please, fight, with everything in you, to pass SB 1530.

Thank you!

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