

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Olsen and Members of the Senate Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

My name is Toma Deavers. I am from Southern Oregon. I currently live in Milwaukie, OR. I am a Great-Auntie dedicated to protecting our State's water, land and air for Future Generations. Thank you for your continued work on the critical issue of the climate emergency.

I have eleven nieces and nephews living in Southern Oregon. Year after year, my family that lives throughout Southern Oregon live in fear of wildfire season. We've already had to evacuate once already. We have many friends who have been evacuated before. We endure weeks upon weeks of heavy wildfire smoke. We have lost so much of Southern Oregon land to wildfire. It is time to stop this madness. It is time to stop the fossil fuel industry that is perpetuating this rise in temperature that is causing wildfires across the globe. We need more funding for wildfire crews and equipment. We need more helicopters and planes that can adequately prepare us for yet another wildfire season. We have seen what has happened in CA. There are over 100 Californians who have died in catastrophic fires down there. WE DO NOT WANT THAT IN OUR STATE. State legislators absolutely must take this seriously!!! We need funding to clear the brush from our forests. Ignoring this is irresponsible and evil.

We cannot spend another summer in heavy wildfire smoke as everything around us burns. Enough is enough. We need real leadership. We need you to stop the "business as usual" paradigm supporting the fossil fuel industry. We need you to adequately prepare Oregon for the catastrophes that are inevitable with continued global warming. We need you to please DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY and ban fossil fuel infrastructure on State lands.

We need improvements to the transportation portion of the bill so all oil companies pay their fair share no matter where they're located. Oil companies are the largest source of pollution in our state and we cannot let them off the hook.

As written, this bill would pay fossil fuel polluters to continue business as usual. We can't afford business as usual. We cannot allow legislation to move forward that is climate action in name only, while it fails to hold large polluters accountable.

This bill needs a guarantee in investments in communities hardest hit by the climate crisis -- rural, low-income, Tribes, and communities of color. While there are aspirations to prioritize those communities in the current version, Oregonians deserve a guarantee.

As many of our Oregon rivers have had toxic algae blooms year after year, and our Coho and Chinook Salmon's struggle becomes harder and harder, as wildfire continues to completely disrupt everyone in Southern Oregon throughout our summers, we must wake up to the climate crisis and take bold, effective measures to address the growing threat of global warming induced catastrophe. Please declare a Climate Emergency for the State of Oregon. Oregon must "blaze the trail" and show the world how to prepare for global warming. On behalf of myself and the four generations of my family living in Southern Oregon, please protect Oregon from the toxic fossil fuel industry, declare a climate emergency, and provide more funds for our wildfire crews and much needed equipment to adequately fight wildfires in a timely matter. We need our leaders to lead. We must take urgent action to address Climate Change.

Yours sincerely,

Toma Deavers

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