

Senator Michael Dembrow  
Chair, Senate Interim Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

February 10, 2020

Re: Urgent Action on Climate Change for All Oregonians

Dear Senator,

My name is Maureen McMahon and I live in Halfway, Oregon.

Since 2008, I have been a local landowner, community leader, and volunteer in the Halfway area. I currently am a Board Member of the Pine Eagle United Youth Fund, a SMART reader and a cross country ski instructor at Pine Eagle Charter School, and the Merchandise coordinator for PineFest, our local music festival.

I am writing to you to express concern about the escalating risks and effects of a changing climate in my community. In the twelve years I have lived in this area, I have seen climate change in action. Temperatures are warming, especially in the winter season. There are fewer songbirds and an increase in crop chewing insects. Wildfires are becoming more unpredictable and threatening to local properties and wildlife.

I am certain that the impacts I witness, and experience are not isolated. Oregonians who live and work on the land and in our waters are directly at risk of experiencing the effects of our changing climate-- drought, wildfire, rising sea levels and unpredictable harvests. Urgent action on climate is needed for our communities, including meaningful investments in restoring our natural and working lands.

Low income and other climate-impacted people including in communities I live and work in will increasingly bear the brunt of climate change. The cost of doing nothing to mitigate and adapt to climate change is too high. I appreciate your leadership and urge you to take swift action to pass a carbon pricing bill this session.

This legislative session, you can help create a stronger and healthier Oregon by addressing climate change and passing a strong carbon pricing bill. I would support a policy that makes significant, economy-wide reductions in carbon emissions that are putting our natural landscapes, communities and health at risk; while generating new investments in restoring our forests, rivers and working lands.

Sincerely,

Maureen McMahon

48587 Highway 86  
Halfway, Oregon 97834

Cc: Representative Mark Owens/Senator Lynn Findley