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Statewide Tour Reveals Support for Clean Energy Jobs Everywhere

Supporters provide majority of testimony in HB 2020 roadshow

SALEM, Ore. -- During a four-stop tour of the state, a remote hearing featuring two locations, and two hearings in Salem, legislators heard from many more Oregonians in favor of cap-and-invest than those opposed. This widespread, diverse support is in line with findings of a recent poll showing 7 in 10 Oregon voters support the pollution reduction strategy, including 2 out of 3 people in rural Oregon where the “roadshow” hearings were focused.

Local elected officials, business people, concerned parents, farmers, winter sports athletes, teachers, and many other Oregonians demanded leadership from our state on combating the climate crisis, and insisted on the need to invest in the clean energy economy to create good-paying jobs and protect our homes and health -- especially in rural and low-income communities.

“I’m continually inspired by the coalition supporting this crucial legislation. With short notice, people all over the state mobilized. We heard business leaders testify shoulder to shoulder with environmental activists explaining why HB 2020 is a win for Oregon’s economy and the climate,” said Tera Hurst, Executive Director of Renew Oregon. “Farmers and winter athletes, parents and teachers all concerned for our kids’ future in the face of climate change, urged the legislature to take bold action.”

Many of those advocating for the bill cited the nonpartisan, independent economic study presented to the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction which found cap-and-invest will:
add 2.5% to Oregon’s gross domestic product (GDP) by 2050,
create 50,000 full-time, good-paying jobs by 2050,
result in income gains, employment, and economic activity across Oregon, through jobs added and savings from clean energy technologies and energy efficiency.
within 9 years Oregonians could save at least \$2 billion in healthcare costs annually by reducing pollution.
All public testimony in 2019 based on sign-up sheets:

QUOTES FROM THE ROAD:

Springfield --

“When I was in ag business three decades ago... I was one of those that protested pesticide, clean water, clean air, and clean fuel requirements imposed on us. We thought they would kill our business and industry. ...But we were wrong. Smart business always adapts. We did that and were profitable as a result. ...To kick the can down the road is a stall tactic. I propose you pass this and work hard to make it the market driven, net job creator it should be.”

Medford --

“In 2010 I attended Southern Oregon University and was afforded the opportunity to study renewable energy in Germany. I saw firsthand the ability of policy to affect change in a country. ...I am blessed to be one of the 55,000 Oregonians to have the opportunity to hold a clean energy job, and I hope that number grows. ...I’m here today to urge you support House Bill 2020.”

Sean Franks, True South Solar

Baker City--

“A fair and equitable Clean Energy Jobs bill is an economic opportunity for Baker County in Oregon. A strong bill, one that includes funding to help rural Oregon innovate and offsets increased costs during the transition will allow industries like Ash Grove and ag, very important to this area, to flourish and grow, and for people to see their cost of living go down and quality of life go up.”

Suzanne Fowdy, Water Resource Specialist

Newport --

“We know that sea levels are rising, ocean acidification is damaging marine life...We know that our crabbing and clamming industries have been impacted by toxins and domoic acid. Climate change is real. We must act now. Oregon can be a leader...If we pass this bill we can transition from polluting energy to a clean energy economy. I ask you to work to bravely pass this.”

CM Hall, Newport City Councilor (speaking as a citizen)

The Dalles--

“If this bill is enacted it will benefit both our economy and our climate. It will propel Oregon into a green renewable energy future and position our state to be competitive nationally as an economic leader in the 21st century. ...We have an urgent need to pass this bill.”

John Nelson, Wasco County School Board (speaking as a citizen)

Bend--

“Many of those opposed cited claims we know come from the large polluting industries who are fighting against this legislation. We could sense the real fear, even though it was based on misleading information,” said Hurst. “We sympathize with those concerned about this transformation to a clean economy and we support the protections in the bill for low-income Oregonians and to guarantee investments flow to rural parts of our state.”

We believe the Cap and Trade model that is the foundation of HB 2020 provides the lowest cost option for achieving our reduction targets while also incentivizing and fostering innovation in Oregon’s economy. As a company that relies on a flourishing outdoor environment for people and dogs to play, HB 2020 is of great importance to us.”

Kelly Hughes, Ruffwear

Renew Oregon is advocating for a Clean Energy Jobs bill to cap climate pollution from the largest sources in Oregon to combat climate change. Large polluters must purchase permits for every ton of greenhouse gases they put into the air. Proceeds will be reinvested in communities across the state, putting Oregonians to work by making clean power like solar available to more people, upgrading homes and businesses to use less energy and save people money, investing in more transportation options, and protecting our state against climate change impacts like wildfire and drought.

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Renew Oregon is a clean energy advocacy coalition of businesses and workers, healthcare professionals and parents, farmers and ranchers, faith and community organizations, and individuals coming together to move our state away from polluting energy to a clean energy economy. We are working to create good-paying jobs for all