

4 KEY QUESTIONS ABOUT CLEAN ENERGY JOBS

1. WILL THIS POLICY REDUCE POLLUTION FROM FOSSIL FUELS?

If it's not working to keep fossil fuels in the ground, it's not effective climate policy. Any climate action bill should have reducing greenhouse gas emissions at its core. The idea of CEJ is to cap pollution and motivate companies to reduce emissions by allowing them to trade pollution allowances and purchase offsets. Offsets create perverse incentives to pollute, and are rarely able to produce real reductions in emissions. And while CEJ moves forward, so does Jordan Cove, a proposed liquefied natural gas pipeline and export terminal in Coos Bay. If completed, Jordan Cove would be the single largest source of climate pollution in the state by 2020—yet would largely be exempt from CEJ, since the bill only addresses emissions that occur in Oregon.

OFFSETS:

Projects that claim to either remove or reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

ALLOWANCES:

Permits to pollute that are given or bought by a company to meet their obligations.

2. HOW MUCH MONEY WILL IT REALLY RAISE?

Our communities need real investment to transition to a clean energy economy and create well-paying green jobs. With 90-100% free allowances given to utilities and large polluters, the current bill will result in negligible contributions to both the Climate Investments and Just Transition Funds. Nearly all the revenues will come from fossil fuel suppliers, and by law, that revenue must go directly into the Highway Trust Fund, which can only be used to build road infrastructure or bridges. In one scenario, with an industry-proposed amendment of up to 90% free allowances for large polluters, the bill would only raise \$1.5 million annually in Climate Investment funds not limited to the Highway Trust Fund.

3. HOW WILL THIS POLICY IMPACT EVERYDAY OREGONIANS?

Equitable climate policy should ensure that those causing pollution are the ones paying to solve it. As stated above, however, when the bill includes substantial free pollution allowances for utilities and large polluters, most of the money raised will come from fossil fuel suppliers. Allowances purchased by fossil fuel suppliers represent real costs that will be passed to consumers through gas prices. And while this a necessary part of the transition to a clean transportation system, there must be mechanisms to reduce the impacts on low-income drivers.

4. WHAT ARE THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF JOINING A GLOBAL CARBON MARKET?

The carbon trading system becomes less transparent and accountable as the market grows larger. The complexity of an international market in carbon trading makes it difficult for Oregon's agencies to regulate and for ordinary people to watchdog. Other states and countries may be more lenient in how they distribute allowances and offsets, which have dispossessed and displaced vulnerable communities globally. Any solution in Oregon has to account for the challenges of engaging in an international carbon market and the impact on global frontline communities.

GLOBAL FRONTLINE COMMUNITIES:

Communities most impacted by climate change globally, frequently the same communities that are also least responsible for causing climate change.

With the future of our communities and planet at stake, we need real solutions, not symbolic victories. Let's make sure Oregon's climate policy measures up.

