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New Cap-and-Invest Bill a Good Starting Place, Needs Strengthening

Potential to be the most consequential climate protection legislation in Oregon history

SALEM, Ore. -- The first version of the 2019 cap-and-invest policy is out and Renew Oregon, with our many coalition partners, are reviewing the details. The Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction, led by House and Senate leadership, has worked hard for nearly a year to bring this bill forward.

Initial review shows:

- The strength of the cap on greenhouse gases is retained with good targets for 2035, 2050.
- It appears no new industries are exempted from under the cap, which is encouraging.
- Economy-wide cap is a leading feature and Oregon is set to link with other jurisdictions.

"The cap-and-invest policy can be the biggest climate protection law in Oregon history by guaranteeing we'll reduce pollution causing climate change while building our clean economy, creating good-paying jobs, and saving Oregonians money on energy bills," said **Tera Hurst, Executive Director of Renew Oregon**. "We commend our lawmakers for resisting polluting industry's pressure to loosen the cap on climate pollution. A strong cap is key to taking bold action in the next decade, as scientists have demanded we do to prevent the worst climate crisis."

Areas to improve:

- While under the cap, large polluters are getting free allowances enabling them to pollute freely for too many years. Oregonians are paying for climate change right now. We don't have years to waste.
- We would like to see that the majority of investments are dedicated to clean energy, job creation, and protection against climate impacts for low-income, rural, and communities of color. These communities deserve more certainty.

"Our families, firefighters, farmers and fishers are paying a high price right now for fossil fuel pollution and a hotter climate. Salem couldn't drink the water this summer, Prairie City ran out. Our state is consumed by wildfire, covered in smoke. Our fish and crops are dying. We're paying at the doctor, in the grocery store, at our jobs and some with their lives," said **Hurst**. "Those communities should be guaranteed investments from this bill to lift them up. It's not spelled out in this new version of the bill. We'll work with lawmakers to change it."

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[Renew Oregon](#) is advocating for a [Clean Energy Jobs](#) bill to cap climate pollution from the largest sources in Oregon. 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.

We are 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 Oregonians, protect air and water from pollution, and help families stay healthy.