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Clean Energy Jobs bill takes first important step toward passage

Bill sets up a cap-and-invest program to reduce climate pollution, fund solutions

SALEM, Ore. --Oregon legislators have begun to move the Clean Energy Jobs bill toward passage, legislation that rises to the urgent need to reduce climate pollution to prevent global warming while repowering our economy to be cleaner and more prosperous than before.

After years of studies, hearings, and work on the framework legislation for a cap-and-invest system, the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction today voted HB2020-94 out of committee and on to the Joint Ways and Means Committee, with a "do pass" recommendation. This builds on years and years of development, stakeholder engagement, and movement building.

"Oregonians are urgently demanding solutions to match the intensity of the climate crisis. The Clean Energy Jobs bill, as it passed out of committee today, will make our state a leader in reducing pollution and serve as a model for others to follow," said Tera Hurst, Executive Director of Renew Oregon. "These committee members, legislative leadership, and the governor have committed themselves to developing the best policy for Oregon. After years of work, it's time to deliver."

Youth activism in support of bold climate action has grown for several years in Oregon, with this year being the largest yet. Young leaders know their generation will face the future left behind by this generation.

"My peers and I have shown our dedication to fighting for climate reform by organizing lobby days with our legislators. We firmly believe the Clean Energy Jobs Bill in its current form represents a strong first step towards a prosperous and sustainable Oregonian future. For the sake of my generation and those to follow, I urge our lawmakers to pass this bill," said Ian Curtis, a senior at South Eugene High School and Executive Director of Oregon Youth Legislative Initiative on Climate Justice.

The Clean Energy Jobs bill is --

A cap and price on climate pollution from the largest polluters, which will reduce millions of tons of greenhouse gases over time to combat global warming.

Investment into Oregon's clean energy economy to create good-paying jobs and make our air cleaner.

Putting Oregonians to work by making clean power like solar available to more people, upgrading homes and businesses to use energy more efficiently and save people money, investing in more transportation options, and protecting forests from wildfire and farmers from 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 Oregonians, protect air and water from pollution, and help families stay healthy.

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You can also keep up with Brad Reed on Twitter.