Clean Energy Jobs bill passes Oregon House with big support

HB 2020 now goes to the Senate for a final vote before heading to Governor Kate Brown

SALEM, Ore. -- Members of the Oregon House of Representatives voted to pass HB 2020, the Clean Energy Jobs bill, today. It was the first time in Oregon history a cap-and-invest program to reduce climate pollution has ever received a floor vote in either chamber. The bill now moves to the Senate for a floor vote.

"Today, a majority of Oregon representatives showed vision and leadership by moving the Clean Energy Jobs bill forward. Our state is poised to adopt an innovative program to guarantee reductions in climate pollution year after year, while investing millions in communities across our state to make people's lives better, the air cleaner, and our economy stronger," said Tera Hurst, Executive Director of Renew Oregon.

"After an intensive process, this bill is moving toward final passage with strong standards in place to invest in Oregon projects to be done by workers earning a livable wage, with adequate benefits, and with a focus on training the next generation of Oregon tradeswomen and tradesmen," said Robert Camarillo, Executive Secretary of Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council. "I'm confident legislators have built in as many protections as possible to make the transition to a clean economy beneficial, while minimizing disruption for our current workforce."

"The legislation moving forward today acknowledges the severe impacts of climate change on Tribal people. Oregon's Tribes have worked hard with legislators to develop an effective cap and invest program," said Don Sampson, Climate Change Project Director at Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. "The 10% of investment funds set aside for local Tribes, a first for carbon pricing policy in North America, will bolster our communities as we seek to continue our sustainability and clean energy efforts."

"Oregon is one step closer to becoming a national destination for cleantech investment and jobs as the Clean Energy Jobs bill passes the House. With a clean energy workforce already exceeding 55,000 and dozens of companies driving this economy, Oregon is projected to add 50,000 additional jobs thanks to investments from this program and beyond," said Andy Wunder, Western States Advocate at E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs).

"There's an awakening in our state and across the country to both the severity of the climate crisis and the short timeline in which we all must act to stop the damage from becoming unthinkable," said Doug Moore, Executive Director of Oregon League of Conservation Voters. "Today, these representatives rose to the challenge with the boldness necessary to make our state a leader and an example of how to combat the climate crisis while prioritizing those communities hit worst by it -- with investments to protect lands and water, create good-paying jobs, and reduce pollution."

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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.