

February 23, 2016

Oregon State Senators and Representatives:

Climate change is more than the defining issue of our time; it is *the* defining issue for *all* time. Continual failure to act with strength, audacity and focus will result in massive displacement and political unrest as sea levels rise, temperatures increase, and our food supply is threatened. That is literally what hangs in the balance and yet we continue to treat it as a political football. If we maintain the status quo, our children will look back on us and wonder if we suffered from mass insanity. Our scientists have been very clear on the subject; we cannot claim ignorance. We must take decisive action immediately.

Given that industry, and therefore the Federal Government, have continued to drag their feet, it is up to Oregon to continue to show leadership. California and BC have already enacted a price on carbon pollution, and Washington is developing a cap on emissions this year through its Clean Air Rule. The West Coast, the 5th largest economy in the world, can show the rest of the country that it can be done without damaging our economy or hurting our people.

The effects of climate change are already being felt in our cities from flooding to drought and wildfires, our infrastructure is being damaged and our utilities are being challenged -- and this is just the tip of the iceberg. It is long past time to take decisive action on this issue.

We, the undersigned Oregon mayors, support the Healthy Climate Bill and strongly urge your leadership in passing effective legislation to limit pollution, and build a strong, more resilient economy by reducing greenhouse gases and investing in clean energy.

The Healthy Climate Bill can level the playing field for clean energy solutions in Oregon, foster innovation and technological progress, and advance public health. It is the right opportunity for Oregon at the right time. This is the most important bill you are likely to consider in your career. Accordingly, we ask for your vote in support of the Healthy Climate Bill.

Sincerely,

Kitty Piercy, Mayor of Eugene
Charlie Hales, Mayor of Portland
Biff Traber, Mayor of Corvallis
Peter Truax, Mayor of Forest Grove
John Stromberg, Mayor of Ashland
Paul Blackburn, Mayor of Hood River
Darby Stricker, Mayor of Talent
Sam Steidel, Mayor of Cannon Beach
Mark Gamba, Mayor of Milwaukie