

To: Governor Kate Brown  
Senate President Peter Courtney  
Senate Minority Leader Ted Ferrioli  
House Speaker Tina Kotek  
House Minority Leader Mike McLane  
Members of the Oregon Legislature

Oregonians are committed to protecting our way of life by keeping pollution out of the air we breathe, the water we drink and the places we call home. Living up to that commitment means transitioning off of dirty, polluting energy to an efficient, clean energy economy.

Oregon's success comes from our state's pioneer spirit. We have the knowledge, the workforce and the will to embrace the opportunity in reducing pollution. Acting now and taking advantage of our innovation and leadership will grow our economy, add good-paying jobs and protect healthy communities.

A changing climate threatens the state we love and the natural resources we depend on. Pollution from burning fossil fuels makes asthma worse for children and puts adults' lives at risk from lung disease and extreme summer heat. Bigger wildfires, more destructive storms and annual droughts are already costing us. If we do nothing, climate change will continue to impact our health and economy.

Oregon's natural beauty and bounty attract nearly \$2.5 billion dollars each year from fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, skiing and more. Not only does outdoor tourism and recreation generate thousands of jobs, it's an important part of Oregon's identity and national reputation. In recent years, the ill effects of climate change threaten our industry and way of life.

Wildfires keep countless visitors from Oregon's mountains, forests and streams -- affecting rafting, fishing, and hiking businesses across the state. One estimate suggests \$100,000 loss per day to the Rogue Valley's outfitting businesses in 2015. Extreme temperatures and fires limit tourism in the summer, while a diminished snowpack prevents skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling in the winter. Mt. Hood's snowpack has been gradually declining for years, threatening over 6,000 jobs in the ski industry and leaving the future of a \$482 million a year industry in peril. Some years Mt. Ashland cannot even open for ski season. Protecting our natural areas and preventing further damage from climate change has to be a priority for the sake of Oregon's ecology and the jobs and communities that rely on it.

Oregon has taken significant and important steps to begin the transition to clean energy and address climate pollution. Our recent successes are a great start – and there is a lot more to accomplish. No single policy will ensure Oregon fully transitions off dirty energy. A combination of economy-wide solutions and sector specific policies fit together as a blueprint for climate protection and clean energy success.

The legislature set a goal to curb climate pollution, now it needs to enforce that limit with a market-based price on carbon pollution. Oregon needs a modern transportation system that encourages the cleanest and most efficient ways to get goods to market. The state must transition

to a fleet of zero-emission cars and sustainable freight. We have seen recent success encouraging renewable sources of energy -- like wind, solar and geothermal -- and a clean fuels standard; Oregon needs to continue to lead the nation in transitioning off dirty sources of energy. We can cut the amount of energy we use with high standards for energy efficiency in our homes and buildings as well manufacturing and production. This, combined with smart practices in agriculture and forestry, can ensure that Oregon's economy continues to grow and produce goods and services while ensuring reductions in greenhouse gas pollution.

We call on the Governor and Oregon lawmakers to extend our state's legacy of leadership. Act now to put Oregon on the right path. We can promote a prosperous economy while limiting pollution. We can protect Oregon for future generations while taking care of families today with good-paying jobs and clean air.

Together, we can renew Oregon.

Signed,

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