

The Time for Climate Action is Now.

An Open Letter from Scientists and Experts Supporting a Clean Energy Transition in Oregon

The challenges posed by fossil fuel-induced climate change are as daunting and demanding as any we've ever faced. That's why these **70 Oregon-based scientists and experts** are urging the state's lawmakers to take strong climate action this year.

The Clean Energy Jobs bill (HB 2020) will overcome those challenges. It will reduce global warming pollution across the state, invest in clean energy, and protect our communities from the impacts of climate change.

March 3, 2019

Dear Governor Brown and Oregon state legislators:

As Oregon scientists, researchers, and economists, we are deeply concerned that climate change compromises the quality of life of all Oregonians and threatens our state's—and planet's—future. We need your leadership now more than ever to reduce the risks of a dangerously warming climate.

The nation's record-breaking extreme weather events of the last few years provide a sobering reminder of possible impacts to Oregon if global warming emissions continue to rise. The scope and severity of many of these extreme events will likely worsen. Oregonians are already facing changes in water availability brought on by smaller snowpack and earlier snowmelt and diminishing fisheries and agriculture. Our forests and related industries

are threatened from increasing wildfires, insect outbreaks, and tree diseases, and our coastal communities are impacted by rising sea levels and increasing ocean acidity.¹

While Oregon must adapt to the inevitable impacts of a changing climate, the state must also take meaningful and binding steps to reduce heat-trapping emissions that would cause much more devastating consequences in the decades to come. While Oregon has goals to reduce heat-trapping emissions, the state is not on track to meet them.²

We can no longer delay meaningful action. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change special report shows that to meet

global temperature goals, we must make large-scale cuts to pollution in the next decade.³ This underscores the pressing urgency for action. The emissions choices we make today—in Oregon and throughout the world—will shape the planet our children and grandchildren inherit. **We, the undersigned scientists and researchers, urge you to pass a strong climate policy in 2019 to cap and price emissions, invest the funds in Oregon communities to support clean energy jobs and climate resilience, and put the state on the path to meeting its emission reduction goals.**

Please help create a cleaner, safer, and healthier future for Oregon. Let this be our legacy.

References and full list of signers available at ucsusa.org/ORClimateLetter2019

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