



Climate Protection Advocates

To Governor Kate Brown and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

From: Oregon organizations representing thousands of individuals, both rural and urban: scientists, tribal communities, policy advocates, and youth.

As you know, we are in a Climate Emergency that requires urgent and bold actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The 2021 IPCC report has been described as a 'Code Red for Humanity' as it stresses the urgency for immediate and rigorous action. Further, they state that if we fail "to significantly reduce global emissions by 2030", it will be "impossible to keep global warming below 1.5°C." In May 2021, the [World Meteorological Organization](#) forecasted a 40% chance of the annual average global temperature temporarily reaching 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level in at least one of the next five years – and these odds are increasing. Your prescient Executive Order 20-04 recognized this urgency in identifying a 2050 goal emissions reductions from 1990 of **at least** 80% AND an interim target of **at least** 45% below 1990 by 2035. We remain deeply concerned that the Climate Protection Program as well as proposals from other agencies are inconsistent with the bold actions urged by the aforementioned scientists and the requirements of your Executive Order.

Wildfires are consuming Oregon, growing exponentially larger year by year, exceeding Oregon's ability to fight them. Hundreds of Oregonians are dying from flames, smoke,

and heat-related illness. Extreme drought is threatening water supplies for people, farms, wildlife, and fish. Businesses such as retail, hospitality, tourism, recreational, fish and shellfish industries are at increasing economic risk.

With your leadership, Oregon can lead, rather than lag, in addressing this rapidly advancing, economic crisis. This moral authority and credibility will urge others to act similarly. Governor Brown: Please ask DEQ to strengthen the Climate Protection Plan so that it follows the Best Available Science with **interim AND 2050 targets**. This ensures emission reductions “to the greatest extent possible within existing laws” as specified in your Executive Order 20-04.

Lastly, of equal importance, is that we must protect vulnerable communities close to stationary polluters. People are dying and experiencing asthma, respiratory and heart disease at increasing levels. Pollutants and emissions from industrial polluters create toxic air quality for hundreds of miles from the source. Even worse, outdoor and farm workers, essential to our way of life, are experiencing deadly health conditions from excessive heat, pollution, and smoke exposure.

This is no time for exploratory or half-hearted measures. Our way of life, our lives, our homes as well as present and future generations are at serious risk. We need significant actions that match the seriousness of this crisis. All people and polluters must participate in reducing emissions so that all of us do not pay the price of inaction. No polluter should be given a free pass.

After years of government inaction while damages and threats increased, climate impacts are growing so fast that the levels of ambition in the Paris Agreement must be roughly tripled to avoid the 2°C pathway and increased at least fivefold to avoid the 1.5°C pathway. (*United Nations Environment Programme report, UNEP*) **Executive Order 20-04 gave us hope that Oregon would create the program we so urgently need. Now, we also need your leadership, and insistence that DEQ responsibly do everything within its power to boldly create, support, and enforce the Climate Protection Program.** Equally important is that you insist that DEQ set up an equally rigorous compliance program to avoid derailing Climate Protection.

We have attached our list of priorities that are critical to include for the reasons stated above. Thank you for your attention to our request.

Priority One

Since the Executive Order targets at least 80% reductions from a 1990 baseline, an adjustment to a different baseline should be accompanied by a concomitant adjustment in expected percentage of reductions.

Hold industrial polluters accountable to mandatory emissions reduction requirements, under a cap, with science based emission targets, that encourage **early** reductions. Mandate *increasingly greater emissions reductions*, and a plan to achieve the same, from large industrial sources from both *combustion* and *process*, including *full life cycle assessment*, as is required in similar air quality programs elsewhere.

a. Per your executive order 20-04, require total GHG emission for all entities subject to these rules to be equal to or less than 32 Million Metric Tons of CO2 Equivalents by January 1, 2035. Include electricity-generation sources that are not covered under HB 2021A.

b. In order to protect vulnerable communities, industrial polluters should not be allowed to buy CCI's until they have met their emissions cap, or established BAER protocols and demonstrated a commitment to meeting the cap in the near future.

c. Any new entities, fuel suppliers, or pipeline operators will not be exempt from the cap.

Priority Two:

Ensure that Community Climate Investments (CCIs) have rules to maintain equity and environmental integrity and do not allow pollution to occur and persist unabated in communities, particularly vulnerable communities.

Require that CCI projects include the option for carbon sequestration projects, preferably in rural Oregon, and follow the best practices of being real, measurable, additional, permanent, verifiable, and enforceable.

Priority Three

Fugitive emissions from pipelines, and transportation fueling should be under the cap. Methane emissions from these entities should be required to have leak identification and repair compliance. This would encourage industry cost savings as well as cleaner air. Regulation of Fuel Suppliers should include all carbon intensive fuels, such as propane, diesel, RNG, and Natural Gas.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Diane Hodiak, Executive Director, 350 Deschutes

Alan Journet Ph.D., Co-facilitator, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now, Jackson County

William Knight, NOAA Physical Scientist, Retired

Donald Sampson , Climate Change Project Director, Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest

Bill Kucha, Founder and Chair of 350 Oregon Central Coast

Helen Kennedy, Marcola, Oregon

Ray Seidler, Ph.D., Professor Microbiology, Oregon State University, Sr. Research Scientist US EPA, retired.

Deb McGee and Patty Hine, Organization leaders, 350 Eugene

Hogan Sherrow Ph.D., Director, Rural Oregon Climate Political Action Committee

Jack Shipley, Chair and Board Member, Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council, Jackson/Josephine Counties

Candy Baunsgard, Chair, Central Oregon Climate Reality Chapter

Bill Bradbury, Chair, SW Oregon Climate Reality Chapter

Bill Malloch, Chair, Climate Reality Chapter Portland

Phil Barnhart, Oregon State Representative, (2001-2019)

Jim Walls, Founder and former Director, Lake County Resources Initiative, Lakeview

Julie Caldwell, Founder, Emerging Futures, Jackson County

Wendell Fitzgerald, President, Bellview Grange, Ashland, Jackson County

Stuart Liebowitz, Facilitator, Douglas County Global Warming Coalition

Kristina LeFever, Pollinator Project Rogue Valley

Lisa Arkin, Executive Director, Beyond Toxics

Dylan Hinson & Meg Jefferson, Co-leaders Southern Oregon Citizens Climate Lobby

Steve Pedery, Conservation Director, Oregon Wild

Susan Cobb, Sisters Indivisible

Rhianna Simes, M.S.Ed., Co- Executive Director, Cultivate Oregon.

Joseph Vaile Climate Director Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center