

# Jackson County Democratic Party Environmental Quality and Sustainable Energy Caucus resolution on Clean Energy Jobs

AJ - September 4, 2017 ([alan@socan.info](mailto:alan@socan.info) - 541-301-4107)

- 1 WHEREAS, for many years, studies of practicing climate scientist opinion have shown that at least 97% agree with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its strengthening conclusion that emissions of greenhouse gases resulting from human activities are a major contributor to the global warming that is evident; and
2. WHEREAS since the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Industrial Revolution, the planet has warmed about 1.8°F, while projections suggest that an additional warming of over 7°F from the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century average is possible if we fail to address our current fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions trajectory; and
- 3 WHEREAS the emissions of greenhouse gases to date virtually guarantees that we will achieve an increase of 1.5°C, elevating the imperative for action to a level of urgency; and
4. WHEREAS, in addition to driving global warming and climate chaos, the emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide is also contributing to the acidification of the oceans, compromising marine ecosystems (including coral Reefs) and our fisheries; and
5. WHEREAS the climatic factors determining the viability of our natural systems (forests, woodlands, wetlands, grasslands etc.) are temperature and water availability, the primary factors influenced by global warming; and
- 6 WHEREAS projections for climatic shifts by the end of this century in Oregon suggest:
  - I average annual temperature increase of 8 to 10°F are possible with wetter winters and drier summers,
  - li increased variability between wet and dry years ,
  - li precipitation will occur more frequently as downpours that promote flooding and soil erosion and less frequently as steady rain that replenishes soil moisture and recharges groundwater, and
  - Iv snowpack (snow water equivalent) falling to 10% of historic averages; and
- 7 WHEREAS studies of the viability of western tree species under future climatic conditions, including those in Oregon, suggest that many will be substantially compromised by conditions potentially arriving by the end of this century, and thus also will compromise:
  - i. our natural systems and
  - ii wildlife habitat, and
- 8 WHEREAS agricultural systems are dependent on the same climatic variables as natural systems and thus will be equally compromised, and
- 9 WHEREAS almost every nation across the globe has agreed via the 2015 Paris Accord that we should take such steps as are necessary to restrict warming to less than 2°C (3.6°F) above pre-industrial levels, and
- 10 WHEREAS the refusal of the Federal Government (Congress and White House) to accept established climate science and take meaningful action to address greenhouse gas emissions at the federal level places greater responsibility on the states and other jurisdictions to address the issue; and

- 11 WHEREAS Oregonians wish our state to be a contributor to solving the global warming crisis rather than continuing as a cause of the problem; and
- 12 WHEREAS studies of our global atmospheric greenhouse gas budget indicate that action is urgent and imperative, and
- 13 WHEREAS, the DPO Platform (Article 1- Plank 12) states that we support making it easier and more financially rewarding for business to invest in creating well-paying, clean-energy jobs; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the DPO Platform (Article 6 Preamble- Transportation, Energy, and the Environment) states that as Oregon Democrats we understand that a healthy, sustainable, and beautiful Oregon environment is a key component of our high quality of life and helps support our resource-based economies; and
- 15 WHEREAS, we believe prosperity is compatible with protection of the environment and recognize the benefits provided by sustainably managed forests and rangelands, clean rivers and lakes, healthy air quality, clean and safe drinking water, and a healthy ocean environment; and
16. WHEREAS, we support the development of environmentally renewable and sustainable energy resources, efficient modes of transportation, preservation of our most pristine lands, and reduction of pollutants; and
- 17 WHEREAS, the DPO Platform (Article 6-Plank 1) states that we believe the peer-reviewed scientific evidence that climate change is a global emergency caused by human activities, and we must take immediate actions to reduce our negative impacts necessary for the survival of our species; and
- 18 WHEREAS, the DPO Platform (Article 6-Plank 2) states that we support peer-reviewed science-based local and national strategies to implement sustainable energy technologies to reduce and prevent the degradation of our life support systems, including our atmosphere, global food supplies, and ocean and freshwater resources as imperative for long-term economic stability; and
- 19 WHEREAS, the DPO Platform (Article 1- Jobs, Business and Labor) states that Oregon democrats work in many trades, occupations, and professions with a belief that all workers and their families deserve a fair share of the American Dream; and
- 20 WHEREAS, we recognize that the wealth of our communities and state is created by the effort, knowledge, investments, and skill of workers and business leaders and thus we honor the efforts of workers and the entrepreneurial spirit of small business that provides the bulk of local job growth, and we recognize the benefits of stability provided by larger scale community investment; and
- 21 WHEREAS, the DPO Platform (Article 1- Plank 3) states that we believe corporations can and should function as ethically run and responsibly regulated entities that contribute their fair share to Oregon's economic prosperity; and
- 22 WHEREAS, the DPO Platform (Article 1, Plank 7) states that we believe it is important to encourage investment in a robust and well-regulated economy that protects Oregonians from economic instability and provides a level playing field for all businesses; and.
- 23 WHEREAS, the DPO Platform (Article 2- Plank 4, Article 6-Plank 8) states that we support the right of everyone to the basic necessities of life including: safety, clean air, water, food, shelter, health care, education, and family-wage jobs; and

- 24 WHEREAS, the DPO Platform (Article 4- Plank 5) states that we believe public funds generated in Oregon should, as a priority, be reinvested in Oregon; and
- 25 WHEREAS, the DPO Platform (Article 4- Plank 7) states that we believe well-purposed government spending can be an economic good because it creates jobs and moves money into the economy; and.
- 26 WHEREAS, the DPO Platform (Article 6-Plank 9) states that we support full funding to update our energy and transportation infrastructures to modern technological standards as a necessary investment in our future economic prosperity; and
- 27 WHEREAS, the DPO Platform (Article 6- Plank 10) states that we believe there are multiple benefits to enhancing alternate sources of energy, including solar energy development, reducing fossil fuels from use, and in increasing vegetation and reforestation; and
- 28 WHEREAS, the DPO Platform (Article 7- Plank 1) states that we believe the increasing scarcity of fresh water, ocean fish stocks, and energy creates security and sustainability concerns which will require solutions and resolution on a global scale; and
- 29 WHEREAS, the clean energy economy employs all kinds of Oregonians -- like construction workers, engineers, designers, manufacturing workers, salespeople, secretaries and custodians<sup>[1]</sup>; and
- 30 WHEREAS, a lot of the work such as energy efficiency and local, clean energy like solar and wind has to be done here with jobs that can't be outsourced; and
- 31 WHEREAS, more than 48,000 Oregonians work in the clean economy producing \$7 billion in goods and services (GDP, 2014)<sup>[2]</sup>; and
- 32 WHEREAS, clean economy jobs are growing at an 11% annual rate in Oregon -- faster than state employment as a whole<sup>[2]</sup>; and
- 33 WHEREAS, every dollar invested in the clean energy economy creates more than 3-times as many jobs as investment in fossil fuels<sup>[3]</sup>; and
- 34 WHEREAS, the Oregon legislature adopted climate pollution reduction goals in 2007 (ORS 468A.205) yet so far, we are not on track to meet those goals and according to DEQ, Oregon's transportation emissions have increased the last two years<sup>[4]</sup>; and
- 35 WHEREAS, California, Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia (and soon all of Canada) and 9 Northeastern states have pollution pricing systems that work. Since 2001, California's economy (GDP) has grown 28% while its emissions per person have dropped 18% over the same time period<sup>[5]</sup>; and
- 36 WHEREAS, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)<sup>[6]</sup> has created more than 30,000 jobs, \$1.3 billion of economic value in the nine-state region and customers' energy bills were reduced by a total of \$460 million; and
- 37 WHEREAS more than \$9.8 billion has been invested in renewable energy in Oregon, with more than 5,300 jobs created directly<sup>[7]</sup> and many thousands of additional jobs supported; and
- 38 WHEREAS Oregon funds only 3% of transit operations around the state, compared to the national average of 24%<sup>[8]</sup>; and

- 39 WHEREAS Health costs will be \$688 million a year in 2020 and \$1.1 billion in 2040 due to ozone pollution from burning fossil fuels. Costs are based on morbidity, premature mortality, and lost worker productivity<sup>[9]</sup>; and
- 40 WHEREAS Governor Brown and 33 legislators issued on July 3 the Clean Energy Jobs Bill (SB 1070) that is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create new jobs in communities across Oregon; and
- 41 WHEREAS Global warming and its climate change consequences represent an urgent problem requiring immediate mitigation and the Democratic Party of Oregon has frequently expressed its support for action addressing this issue,
- A BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the Jackson County Democratic Party Central Committee (JCDPCC) endorses the Clean Energy Jobs Bill (CEJB - listed as SB1070 in 2017); and
- B BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the JCDPCC encourages Democratic Party Central Committees across the state similarly to endorse CEJB; and
- C BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the JCDPCC encourages county Committees across the state to contact their reps to:
- a. encourage them to become sponsors for CEJB in 2018, and
  - b. commit to passage of CEJB as a matter of urgency and high priority for the 2018 legislative session.
- D BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the JCDPCC encourages the Democratic Party of Oregon State Central Committee to endorse CEJB.

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[1] Job Opportunities in a Green Economy (Oregon) <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/oregon.pdf>

[2] West Coast Clean Economy, 2010-14 <http://delphi.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/PCC-Clean-Economy-Report-FINAL.pdf>

[3] Green Growth: A U.S. Program for Controlling Climate Change and Expanding Job Opportunities. [pg 234] <https://www.peri.umass.edu/media/k2/attachments/GreenGrowthReport-PERI-Sept2014.pdf>

[4] Oregon Greenhouse Gas Inventory, 1990 - 2015: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/aq/climate/docs/ghginventory.pdf>

[5] [California Air Resources Board](#)

[6] The Analysis Group, 'The Economic Impacts of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative on Nine Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States.' <https://www.c2es.org/docUploads/rggi-mou.pdf>

[7] Renewable Northwest, [http://www.rnp.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/OR\\_FactSheet\\_2015Oct1.pdf](http://www.rnp.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/OR_FactSheet_2015Oct1.pdf)

[8] Transportation For America based on National Transit Database 2010-2012 data

[9] *An Overview of Potential Economic Costs to Oregon of a Business-As-Usual Approach to Climate Change*, ECONorthwest, Feb. 2009 [http://www.econw.com/media/ap\\_files/ECONorthwest\\_Publication\\_Economic-Costs-of-Climate-Change-Oregon\\_2009.pdf](http://www.econw.com/media/ap_files/ECONorthwest_Publication_Economic-Costs-of-Climate-Change-Oregon_2009.pdf)