

Senator Alan DeBoer
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Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

SOCAN

Confronting Climate Change

<http://socan.info>

Senator DeBoer:

I write to urge your support for HB2020 which:

- Establishes the Oregon Energy and Climate Board as oversight and advisory body for the Oregon Department of Energy and Climate,
- Establishes an Interagency Climate Coordinating Committee to make recommendations to board on ways to coordinate state policies and programs related to energy and climate,
- Changes the name of State Department of Energy to Oregon Department of Energy and Climate,
- Changes the name of Director of State Department of Energy to Energy and Climate Director,
- Abolishes Oregon Global Warming Commission.
- Additionally, the bill modifies state energy policy and modifies the duties of the newly named department.

Current climate trends and recent political decisions at the national level suggest that the states must take a stronger lead on addressing the underlying cause of the global warming and climate change that we are experiencing. Our state is not on a trajectory for reducing greenhouse gas emissions sufficient to meet the purely voluntary goals established by HB3543 (2007). One of the problems is that the Oregon Global Warming Commission, established by that bill to assist the state in reducing emissions, is not provided sufficient resources to promote the reduction effectively. A great benefit to renaming the Department of Energy as the Department of Energy and Climate is that this strengthens the ability of the state to guide us towards the emissions reductions that are required. This is because the newly named department is charged to develop energy resources consistent with achieving state emissions reduction goals and assists citizens and industry in adjusting to the changes in the available mix of energy resources and to climate change.

On behalf of the 1100 Southern Oregonians who are SOCAN I encourage your support for HB2020. More than acknowledging the reality of global warming and climate change, we need to take steps to address it. HB2020 would be a sound first step.

Sincerely,



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