PRESS RELEASE / NEWS ADVISORY - EVENT
October 26 2019; For Immediate Release
Contact: Hogan Sherrow, Rural Oregon Climate Political Action Committee, (ROCPAC)
541-415-1013 Hogan@rocpac.org

Climate change ballot measures have momentum in Southern Oregon
*Southern Oregon Climate Action Now will announce signature turn-in for
climate change measures*

When: Wednesday, 10/30/19

Time: 12:00

Where: Vogel Plaza, Medford

Who: Alan Journet, Co-Facilitator, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
             (SOCAN), founding ballot coalition member
             Rhianna Simes, Executive Director, Our Family Farms
             Tonya Graham, Executive Director, Geos Institute, Ashland City Council
             Member

What: Local angle on statewide story: Southern Oregon founding ballot coalition
             member and SOCAN Co-Facilitator will announce popular ballot measures
             as sponsorship signatures are turned in to State Elections Division in
             Salem.

- - More - -

Climate change petitions have momentum across Oregon

Campaign turns in two times more signatures than needed, easily clearing first hurdle to 2020 ballot

JACKSON COUNTY, Oregon – Oregonians want enforceable clean energy standards and to move to a renewable, clean energy economy; they are showing it with their support for three ballot measure proposals designed to do just that.

- More than 6,000 signatures from across the state, including rural Harney, Wasco, and Jackson Counties, have quickly endorsed IP48, IP49, and IP50, three proposed ballot measures that, if enacted, will move Oregon into a sustainable, clean energy economy.
- This is double the requirement of 1,000 sponsorship signatures per measure needed to qualify for a ballot title, and collected in less than 3 weeks.

This enthusiasm is matched by polling earlier this year showing **70% of Oregonians support setting a 100% clean electricity standard**, the essence of the Clean Energy ballot measures (IP 48 and IP 49). Meanwhile, the concept of 100% Clean Economy statewide (IP 50) is **supported by 67% of Oregonians**. Oregonians support enforcing Oregon's targets for reducing carbon emissions.

The reduction of carbon and other greenhouse gases has become more pressing than ever. With the air pollution created by climate change induced wildfires, the American Lung Association recently determined that the Rogue Valley has the 17th most polluted air in the country. Alan Journet, founding ballot coalition member and Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN) Co-Facilitator stated: "It's beyond time for us to address climate chaos. Unless we act now, with solutions that benefit rural and disadvantaged communities, our health will be compromised even as our forests, fisheries, and agriculture are destroyed. The legislature let us down in 2019; we cannot risk this happening again and must take action into our own hands."

Supporters announced they're moving forward with the ballot measures as insurance against another failure of the state legislature next year to pass a Clean Energy Jobs bill.

Measure supporters say the preferred path to reduce climate pollution is through legislation in 2020 that holds large, corporate polluters accountable for reducing dangerous emissions and provides important funds to help the state manage the effects of climate change and invest in clean energy, rural Oregon, and disadvantaged communities.
"Both legislation and ballot measures will meet our goals of reducing climate pollution for our communities, our economies, and the health of our people," says Clean Electricity Chief Petitioner

Lisa Adatto. "Because of limits to what ballot measures can do, we aren't able to make polluters pay in the way legislation does, but we are able to give the state the authority to limit pollution and make sure Oregon is taking responsibility for our share of the problem. 2020 is going to be the year of climate action, one way or another."

Supporters say they believe lawmakers will stand up to the powerful polluter lobby and pass legislation, but they are not taking any chances. The ballot measure campaign is moving ahead full steam, riding the public wave of support for climate action that is sweeping across Oregon.

Next steps: Now that sponsorship signatures for the measures are submitted, they are officially filed, signatures will be verified, and the Oregon Attorney General will draft a ballot title. Upon final approval of the title, the campaigns can begin gathering the 112,000 signatures necessary to qualify for the 2020 ballot.

To get involved in the campaign, go to OregoniansforCleanAir.org, or contact rocpac.org
For complete ballot language and updates on Rogue Valley ballot measure activities, visit:
https://socan.eco/ballotmeasures/

The **100% Ready for Clean Air** measures are:

- **100% Clean Economy ballot measure** (Initiative Petition 50)- updates and enforces the voluntary climate pollution reduction targets already in Oregon law. It will require our state to reduce greenhouse gas pollution 50% below 1990 levels by 2035 and achieve zero climate pollution by 2050. This is consistent with what the best available science indicates we must achieve.

- **100% Clean Electricity ballot measure** (Initiative Petition 48)- requires all electricity used in Oregon to be from 100% clean renewable sources by 2045, a target consistent with our west coast neighbors Washington, Nevada and California. Today, more than 48% of Oregon's electricity comes from coal and other fossil fuels, creating unhealthy and dangerous pollution. Clean electricity will be the backbone of a clean economy.

Additional notes: Two versions of the 100% Clean Electricity measure have been filed. Both will transition Oregon's electricity to 100% clean renewable sources by 2045. The second (IP 49) also updates the law to require that electric utilities more aggressively invest in electric car charging and clean building technologies, like electric heating. The petitioners will decide which version(s) to take to the ballot later in the process.