



THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

March 8, 2010

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
223 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3703

Dear Senator Wyden:

I am writing to urge you to oppose efforts to block the US Environmental Protection Agency from utilizing the Clean Air Act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This includes, but is not limited to, opposing the Resolution of Disapproval introduced by Senator Murkowski of Alaska that would invalidate EPA's finding of endangerment for greenhouse gases.

Climate change from greenhouse gas emissions presents a serious threat to Oregon's environment and economy. Rising average temperatures will bring drought to some areas of Oregon and flooding to others. Rising sea levels threaten our coastal communities, and lower average snowpack in Oregon's mountains means lower summer stream flows when water is needed by both fish and farmers. Warmer waters also threaten our salmon runs and river ecosystems.

For these reasons, I have directed our state agencies to begin reducing Oregon's share of greenhouse gas emissions. We have established state-wide greenhouse gas reduction goals and we have adopted a renewable portfolio standard for utilities, a renewable fuel standard, greenhouse gas standards for new motor vehicles, and greenhouse gas reporting. We are currently developing a low carbon fuel standard for transportation fuel and greenhouse gas planning requirements for transportation. Oregon was also a founding member of the Climate Registry and the Western Climate Initiative, which have leveraged greenhouse gas reduction efforts in western states and Canada.

But to achieve our greenhouse gas reduction goals, it is critical for EPA to take action at the federal level using the tools available in the Clean Air Act. The Clean Air Act has been among our most successful environmental laws, with a proud history of cutting smog, soot, lead, acid rain, toxics and other pollution. In 2007, the US Supreme Court ruled that the Clean Air Act covers greenhouse gases, and in 2009 EPA found that six key greenhouse gases threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations. This "endangerment finding," based

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on a thorough evaluation of the science and an extensive public process, enables EPA to use the Clean Air Act to fight climate change.

Efforts in Congress to prevent EPA from using the Clean Air Act to reduce greenhouse gases are not only counterproductive but would also result in unintended consequences for United States automakers. Oregon and 13 other states have adopted standards to reduce greenhouse gases from motor vehicles. The EPA's proposed greenhouse gas standards for motor vehicles will establish a nationally-harmonized state and federal program that is supported by the auto industry, environmental organizations and states.

If EPA is blocked from adopting these rules, individual states will move forward with our own vehicle standards. Individual states will also need to move forward with emission standards for stationary sources of greenhouse gas emissions, such as power plants.

The Clean Air Act is needed not only as a bridge until Congress enacts comprehensive climate legislation, but also as a primary tool – together with actions at the state level – to achieve the promise of such legislation once enacted. That is why I urge you to oppose any efforts to block EPA from using the Clean Air Act in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to oppose any efforts to block states from taking action to complement and supplement EPA's efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theodore R. Kulongoski', written in a cursive style.

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
Governor

TRK:mc:jb
Originals sent to full Delegation