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Report

JCDPCC Resolution on Clean Energy Jobs

AJ - September 4, 2017 (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 18th 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 19th 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

- 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^[1]; 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)^[2]; and
- 32 WHEREAS, clean economy jobs are growing at an 11% annual rate in Oregon – faster than state employment as a whole^[2]; and
- 33 WHEREAS, every dollar invested in the clean energy economy creates more than 3-times as many jobs as investment in fossil fuels^[3]; 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^[4]; 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^[5]; and
- 36 WHEREAS, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)^[6] 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^[7] 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%^[8]; 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^[9]; and