



Press Release

For Immediate Release:

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HEADWAY MADE IN 2018 SESSION TOWARD CAP & INVEST LEGISLATION FOR OREGON; BUSINESS LEADERS COMMITTED TO CONTINUING EFFORT

The Oregon Business Alliance for Climate is energized by new commitments from the leaders of the House, Senate and Governor Kate Brown, to pass carbon pricing legislation in 2019.

Nancy Hamilton, Co-Director of the Alliance, said, “We are well prepared and fully committed to continuing our efforts to pass legislation that’s been in discussion for more than a decade, and introduced in every Oregon legislative session since 2015. And, we applaud the announcement of a Joint Legislative Committee on Carbon Reduction co-chaired by House Speaker Tina Kotek and Senate President Peter Courtney that will get important work done now, before the ’19 session, with an eye to staying on track for a 2021 launch.”

The Alliance Board also praised the Legislature’s approval of a one-time \$1.4 million General Fund appropriation to support a Carbon Policy Office. The appropriation includes \$650,000 to fund studies to examine the economic impact analysis of a cap and trade program on Oregon’s jobs and economy, leakage risk of emission intensive, trade exposed industries (EITEs), and carbon sequestration.

Alliance Co-Director Steve Baczko lauded the hard work of Senator Michael Dembrow and Representative Ken Helm, noting, “they have been unwavering in their effort to create, refine and sustain the momentum of cap and invest legislation

while also engaging countless stakeholders. We look forward to continuing this work with them and the leadership in both chambers, as well as the Governor’s office, in preparation for the ’19 session.”

Alliance members, representing more than 70 forward-thinking businesses statewide, are likewise committed to continuing this critical work. The Alliance supports collaborative policy and business engagements aimed at promoting investment, job creation and competitiveness by leveraging carbon pricing to invest in the state's clean energy economy.

The Alliance Board of Directors and members agree that climate change presents a significant threat to our livelihoods, and carbon pricing is widely viewed as the most effective and efficient way to address it. The nature of the threat, together with federal inaction, demands that Oregon demonstrate timely policy leadership.

Alliance Board members are as follows:

Tom Kelly

Board Chair

Owner and President, Neil Kelly Company

Jonathan Nicholas

Vice President, Strategic Communications, Moda, Inc.

Jim Bernau

Co-Founder, Willamette Valley Vineyards

Cindi O'Neil

Vice President, SolAire Homebuilders

Steve Clem

VP of Construction, Skanska

Alando Simpson

Vice President, City of Roses Disposal & Recycling

Jon Isaacs

Public Affairs Manager, Uber

Alan Sprott

Vice President, Vigor Industrial

Tom Koehler

Co-Founder, Pacific Ethanol

John Tapogna

President, ECONorthwest

Carter MacNichol

Managing Director, Shiels Obletz Johnsen

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Our Mission is to provide a forum for Oregon industry leaders to collaborate on policy and business engagements aimed at promoting investment, job creation, competitiveness and economic growth toward Oregon’s low carbon economy.