Resolution of the Oregon Global Warming Commission

Resolution Number: 2018-3

Origin: Angus Duncan, Commission Chair

A Resolution acknowledging the critical work to date of the Legislature’s Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction and urging the State of Oregon to fully develop an economy-wide greenhouse gas\(^1\) cap and trade proposal – or comparably effective pricing mechanism – for legislative action in 2019 that will, in combination with other State and local government investments and policies, and private sector initiatives, bring Oregon’s greenhouse gas emissions under control and on a trajectory to comply with the State’s legislatively-enacted reduction goals; and will identify and act on priority climate change adaptation measures.

WHEREAS, beginning with the 2003 Report of Governor Kulongoski’s Advisory Group on Global Warming, Oregonians have urged State action on “a greenhouse gas allowance mechanism . . . (that would enable) the ability to trade emissions savings and offsets with California and Washington, lowering compliance costs,” and,

WHEREAS, Governor Kulongoski agreed with his Advisory Group to set in motion a follow-on review that would “examine the feasibility of, and develop a design for, a load-based greenhouse allowance system,” and,

WHEREAS, the Governor Kulongoski’s Carbon Allocation Task Force developed a design for such a “Load-based Cap on Emissions from Consumption of Electricity in Oregon” and in 2006 recommended its adoption, and,

WHEREAS, the Oregon Global Warming Commission, in its first Biennial Report to the Legislature in 2009, recommended “that Oregon continue to move forward with . . . a regional greenhouse gas cap and trade mechanism . . . “and identified criteria including “fair, effective and transparent market mechanisms . . . opportunities for Oregon households and businesses to benefit from . . . the new low carbon economy (and to cope with) transition challenges. . . .” and,

WHEREAS, Oregon collaborated with California, Washington and other western states to establish the Western Climate Initiative with the objective of developing a multi-state

\(^1\) This Resolution would support development of caps on legislatively-designated greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and the fluorinated gases, and a mechanism for trading emissions rights on these gases.
greenhouse gas cap-and-trade mechanism that would enable the states to find the least cost opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and,

WHEREAS, the State of California, pursuant to Assembly Bill 32, has successfully developed and deployed such a mechanism that covers greenhouse gas emissions economy-wide, and has encouraged other states and Canadian provinces to join the WCI greenhouse gas market, take advantage of the significant sunk development costs and of the opportunities afforded by the trading of allowances to find the least cost ways to reduce these emissions, and,

WHEREAS, the Oregon Legislature is expected to consider, in its 2019 session, acting on fifteen years of repeated and consistent citizen recommendations to enact into law an Oregon greenhouse gas cap mechanism that is sufficiently complete and rigorous to enable linkage to Western Climate Initiative and comparable systems elsewhere, where such linkage advantages Oregon, and,

WHEREAS, the opportunity to move forward decisively and responsibly on a national level with such a mechanism is, for the time being, out of reach,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,
That the Oregon Global Warming Commission renews its recommendation to Oregon’s Governor and Legislature to develop legislation in 2019 that would authorize an economy-wide Oregon greenhouse gas cap-and-trade system – or comparably effective carbon pricing mechanism -- that will seek out the least cost opportunities for reducing such emissions, that acknowledges pre-existing and performing emissions reduction initiatives, that provides transition assistance for households and businesses most challenged by the transition to a decarbonized economy, and that is structured to enable linkage with the Western Climate Initiative and similar emissions markets as such linkage proves advantageous to Oregon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,
That the Commission urges legislators and stakeholders to engage in a vigorous process that can find resolutions to the many additional issues expected to arise -- and to approach this process committing to seek and find such resolution in the interest of protecting Oregon and the planet.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,
That the Governor, Legislature and other public officials undertake the necessary work of adapting our communities, livelihoods and environment to the realities of a changing climate.