

OPENING STATEMENT
Ranking Member Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)
of the Subcommittee on Environment

House Committee on Science, Space, & Technology
Subcommittee on Environment
“Impact of EPA’s Clean Power Plan on States”
May 26, 2016

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the witnesses for being here today.

The goal of the Clean Power Plan is important and simple -- cut carbon emissions from the power sector, the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, so that we can lessen the effects of climate change in *every* state, and our planet.

In a Science Committee hearing last fall, Jason Eisdorfer, the Utility Program Director of the Oregon Public Utility Commission thoughtfully explained Oregon’s efforts to implement the Clean Power Plan. Governor Kate Brown has stated that the EPA’s Clean Power Plan rule “is in the best interests of Oregon on many fronts. A healthy environment is essential to ensuring the health of Oregonians and protects our quality of life for many generations to come.”

Oregon has been proactive in its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As a former member of the state legislature, I helped establish some of the state’s carbon emissions reduction goals. For example, in 2007, Oregon set a target of reducing statewide emissions by 75 percent by 2050. We also set the goal of having up to 25 percent of our energy generated through renewable sources by 2025. This year, Oregon took further action to require 50 percent renewables by 2040, and a total phase-out of coal-fired electricity by 2035. These efforts and others have put Oregon in a position to not only meet, but surpass, its Clean Power Plan carbon reduction goal.

Some contend that environmental regulations might harm the economy. This hasn’t been the case in Oregon. According to the Energy Trust of Oregon, the state has produced about 3,200 full-time jobs, added \$3.9 billion to the state’s economy, and saved customers \$1.9 billion on their energy bills.

The Clean Power Plan builds on the efforts of states like Oregon by creating a unified, national approach to our biggest environmental challenge. The Clean Power Plan represents an opportunity for American ingenuity that will allow us to from benefit from the much needed transition to a low carbon economy.

More than 150 companies have signed the American Business Act on Climate Pledge to demonstrate their support for action and a low-carbon sustainable future. We ought to listen.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and again thank you to our witnesses for being here this morning. I yield back the balance of my time.