

**COLUMBIA CORRIDOR**  
A S S O C I A T I O N

21 April 2009

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Sen. Jackie Dingfelder, Chair  
900 Court St. NE, S407  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

The Columbia Corridor is home to 2,500 businesses employing 60,000 people. It's the largest economic corridor in Oregon and contains Portland's largest industrial sanctuary. The Columbia Corridor Association (CCA) is concerned about legislative and regulatory actions and their impacts on the prosperity of the Columbia Corridor. At the same time, we recognize that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are a serious problem that needs federal, state and local attention. The question is not whether something should be done, but rather what the action should be.

If we establish an Oregon-specific GHG program that does not also include a good economic strategy and comprehensive incentive programs to achieve GHG reductions, it may have unintended and disproportionate consequences for Oregon's economy. We will then lose our ability to finance the very programs we are creating. Likewise, hard caps and excessive fees in an Oregon-specific program may lead to a negative business climate and loss of state revenue.

We are convinced that the best strategy is one that brings all fifty states into the process and avoids regulatory confusion. That strategy is already playing out. Last week the U.S. EPA announced that it is moving forward with formulating a national greenhouse gas reduction program under the Clean Air Act, while seeking broader climate change legislation.

We are confident that soon either the U.S. Congress will pass legislation or the EPA will establish new GHG regulations. Either action will deal with greenhouse gasses, and will assure that Oregon is economically competitive with other states.

CCA supports national legislation that keeps the Columbia Corridor and all of Oregon on a competitive level with the remainder of the country, while achieving the 2050 GHG emission reduction goals established in ORS 468A.205. This will avoid requiring businesses to incur additional expenses because they do business in Oregon. If we can grow our economy, we will have more funds available for GHG programs. If our economy suffers, any Oregon-specific GHG legislation will falter at the same rate businesses falter.

Sincerely,



Corky Collier  
Executive Director