

Claire Coates
Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School

Representative Ken Helm
Work Group on Agriculture, Forests, Fisheries, Rural Communities, and Tribes
rep.kenhelm@oregonlegislature.gov

November 9th, 2017

Dear Representative Helm,

My name is Claire Coates, and I am a seventh grader at Lewis and Clark Montessori Charter School. I would like to bring to your attention how global warming, and climate change is currently affecting pacific northwest salmon.

According to a 2016 NOAA study, several observations of behavioral shifts in salmon, that are likely due to climate change, have been made in the past half century. The Chinook salmon from the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River, spawn date has shifted one week later since 1950. Salmon from 67 rivers on both sides of the Atlantic have moved smolt timing roughly 2.5 days earlier. Unusual catches of Atlantic Salmon show that range shifts in the North Atlantic have reached as far as Svalbard. In the early summer of 2015, unusually high temperatures hit the lower main stem of the Columbia River. Of all the redbfish lake sockeye salmon detected passing Bonneville Dam, only 4% survived to Lower Granite Dam, and none survived after temperatures got to 20 degrees celsius. For Sacramento, the winter-run Chinook salmon survival in 2014-15, was the lowest ever seen, and is thought to have been caused by the California drought, which was caused by global warming. Judging by how quickly the population of salmon is declining, there's a good chance that by 2020 there will be no salmon left in Oregon.

A possible solution to this problem is using taxes obtained from the carbon cap and reinvesting them into technologies that may be able to save the salmon. In your clean energy jobs bill, please consider putting in a section that will help restore streams and habitat for Salmon.

I appreciate all that you are doing for Oregon, concerning the clean energy jobs bill.

Sincerely,
Claire Coates