

Council Business Meeting

February 6, 2018

Title: Support for Clean Energy Jobs Bill
From: Adam Hanks Interim Asst. to the City Administrator
adam@ashland.or.us

Summary:

Attached are two sample forms of potential actions Council could take to communicate support to the Oregon State Legislature for pending legislation initially labeled the “Clean Energy Jobs Bill”, originally reviewed by the legislature as Senate Bill 1070 and now proposed as [LC 44 \(Senate version\)](#) and [LC 176 \(House version\)](#).

Actions, Options, or Potential Motions:

- 1) I move approval of a resolution titled “A resolution in general support of State Legislative Action regulating greenhouse gas emissions (GHG)”.

Or

- 2) I move to authorize Mayor Stromberg to submit a letter of general support for State Legislative Action regulating greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) on behalf of the Mayor and Council.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff does not have a recommendation on this item. It is staff’s opinion, however, that in terms of impact on decisions on this matter in the upcoming legislative session, approval to send a letter of support would be just as effective as passage of a resolution.

Should Council choose to move forward with an indication of support, staff further recommends that the language remain general/conceptual in nature as the previous SB1070 will undoubtedly undergo significant redrafting with many currently unknown regulatory and administrative elements.

Resource Requirements:

N/A other than limited Administration Staff time.

Policies, Plans and Goals Supported:

While not specifically connected with an existing Council Goal, statewide regulations regarding greenhouse gas emissions could have a significant positive impact on the City’s ability to meet the its local Climate and Energy Action Plan carbon mitigation goal of 8% annually. How the regulations are ultimately structured will be of local significance as well, since the CEAP places a priority on the social equity implications of any and all CEAP implementation.

Background and Additional Information:

City Climate, Electric Utility and Administration staff will be actively monitoring and participating as this legislation moves forward through direct research and tracking as well as through various associations of which the City is a member, including the Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities (OMEU), Northwest Requirements Utilities (NRU), Northwest Energy Coalition and other less formal climate action and sustainability groups and coalitions staff is associated with.

Additionally, at its [December 13, 2017, meeting](#), the Conservation Commission unanimously approved a motion to encouraging the Mayor to sign a letter urging the state legislature to bring forward a bill supporting clean energy jobs creation, in line with the City of Ashland's Climate and Energy Action Plan goals.

Attachments:

Draft Support Resolution
Draft Support Letter

Oregon State Legislature - Clean Energy Jobs Work Groups
<https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/helm/Pages/clean-energy.aspx>

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-

A RESOLUTION IN GENERAL SUPPORT OF STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION REGULATING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (GHG)

RECITALS:

- A. City Council approved a community and municipal Climate and Energy Action Plan on March 7, 2017
- B. City Council adopted an ordinance containing an intent to achieve the greenhouse gas reductions (mitigation) by eight percent per year on average consistent with the goal and methodology contained within the Climate and Energy Action Plan
- C. City Council and the community is aware that efforts and actions beyond the local boundaries of Ashland are required in order for the 8% annual GHG reduction to be achieved.
- D. City Council places a high priority on social equity in the achievement of the 8% annual reduction goal

THE CITY OF ASHLAND RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Mayor and Council endorse and support efforts undertaken by the State of Oregon to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a regulatory limit on emissions that is in alignment with the overall greenhouse gas emission reduction goals set previously by the State of Oregon.

SECTION 2. The Mayor and Council also urge these efforts to carefully consider social equity impacts associated with any proposed emissions reduction regulation or program.

This resolution was duly PASSED and ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2017, and takes effect upon signing by the Mayor.

Melissa Huhtala, City Recorder

SIGNED and APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2018.

John Stromberg, Mayor

Reviewed as to form:

David H. Lohman, City Attorney

February 7, 2018

Senator Michael Dembrow
Representative Ken Helm

The Ashland City Council and I are submitting this letter of support for the potential upcoming legislative review and redrafting of what has been labeled as the Clean Energy Jobs Bill (SB 1070).

As we understand the current status, the former SB 1070 may be addressed in the upcoming legislative session as two separate Bill drafts, LC 44 in the Senate and LC 176 in the House, both with the overarching intent of creating a regulatory construct to limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated within the State of Oregon.

While it is understood that many details will need to be addressed, discussed and resolved, the Council and I wish to pledge our support and appreciation for the pursuit of statewide greenhouse gas mitigation regulations that set meaningful limits on future emissions with the overall intent of being a major contributor to meeting the State's existing greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and goals.

As you may or may not know, the City of Ashland recently adopted a very comprehensive and aggressive Climate and Energy Action Plan with an overall target of an eight percent reduction annually. It is understood that in addition to the successful implementation of our local plan, action will be required at the state and federal level to reach the stated local targets.

Thank you for your work to date on this matter. We sincerely hope that this work continues and results in a greenhouse gas mitigation regulation and implementation strategy that meets the State's future emissions needs, while at the same time being cognizant of the impacts on its residents and the economic viability of the State.

Sincerely,

John Stromberg
Mayor

