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www.ourchildrenstrust.org

Securing the legal right to a healthy
atmosphere and stable climate.



September 12, 1986

“There is a very real possibility that man – through ignorance or indifference, or both – is irreversibly altering the ability of our atmosphere **to perform basic life support functions.**”

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 12, 1986

Mr. Lee Thomas
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Thomas:

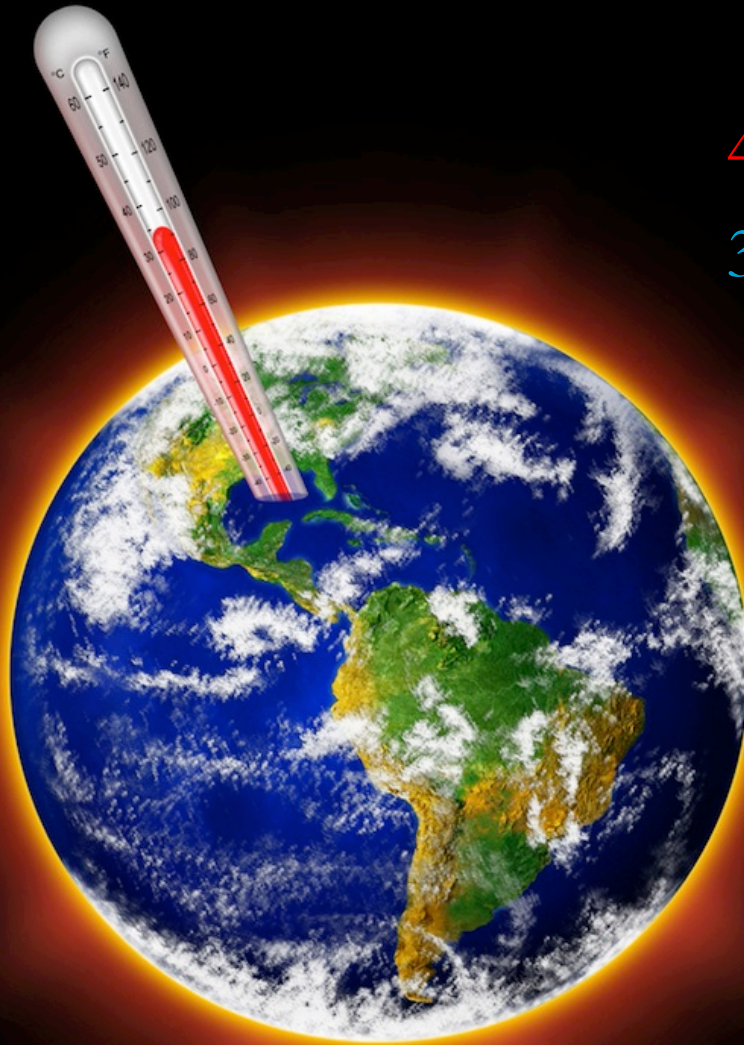
The purpose of this letter is to formally request that EPA undertake two studies on climate change due to the greenhouse effect and submit them to Congress no later than March 31, 1988.

At the outset, we want to thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Environmental Pollution at hearings last June on the problems of global climate change and stratospheric ozone depletion. Your testimony showed a refreshing appreciation for the magnitude of the environmental risks presented by these problems and the need to be exploring incremental actions that can be taken to reduce these risks.

As summarized at those hearings and elsewhere, the scientific community appears to have reached agreement that substantial ozone depletion may result from continued use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's) and that increases in CFC's and other greenhouse gases are like to produce global climate changes greater than any in man's history. There is a very real possibility that man - through ignorance or indifference, or both - is irreversibly altering the ability of our atmosphere to perform basic life support functions.

What is urgently needed now is for us to begin to deal with these issues. They can no longer be treated solely as important scientific questions. First, some actions including limits on CFC's appear warranted in the near term. Second, we need to expand efforts to more fully understand the effects that atmospheric pollution has on the environment and to develop an extensive range of policy options for dealing with the serious global problem of climate change due to the greenhouse effect. This second need has led to our request for two EPA studies.

One of the studies we are requesting should examine the health and environmental effects of climate change. This study should include, but not be limited to, the potential impacts on agriculture, forests, wetlands, human health, rivers, lakes and estuaries as well as other ecosystems and societal impacts. This

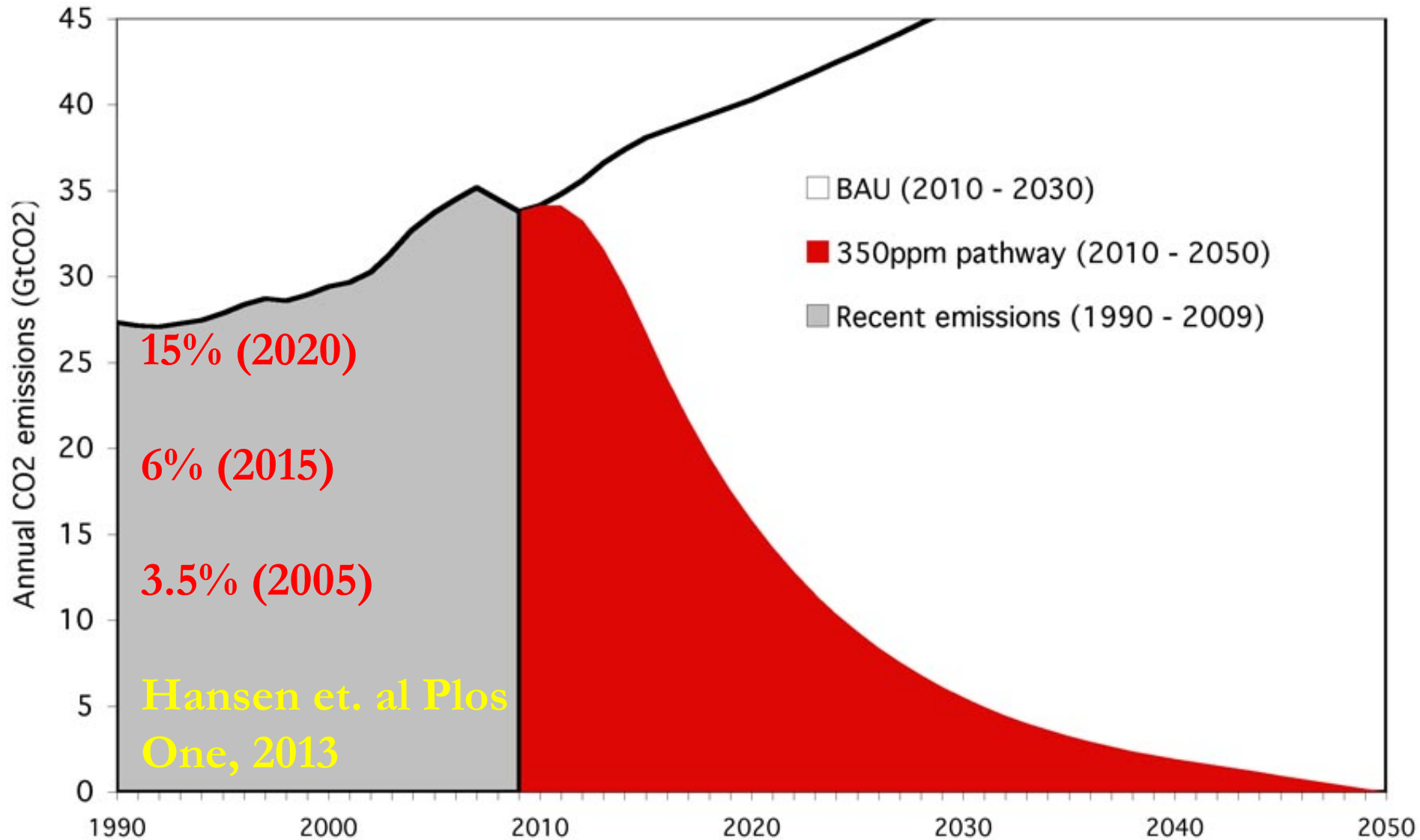


400 parts per million

350 parts per million to
stabilize climate

The 350 ppm Emergency Pathway

EcoEquity and Stockholm Environment Institute





"I want my government to understand that climate change is real, changes are happening right now, and things aren't going to get better on their own. Climate change should be the government's first priority."

**Avery McRae, 10
Eugene, OR**



"It's important to spread awareness about climate impacts. I'm suing the federal government because they need to be doing a lot more to protect our futures."

Zealand Bell, 11
Eugene, OR

***Kelsey Juliana and Olivia Chernaik
v.
Governor Brown***



HB 3470, the Climate Stability and Justice Act



- *Comprehensive* climate law.
- Would *require* greenhouse gas emission reductions in Oregon by 2020 and 2050.
- Reduction targets updated every 5 years based on the *science* of protecting our climate system.
- DEQ and EQC can put a *fee on carbon pollution* and regulate those emissions that are causing climate change.
- Protects low income communities and creates new jobs.
- Does not require a constitutional amendment.

Oregon Opinion on Climate Change 2013

Which statement comes closest to your view?

S1-Q32

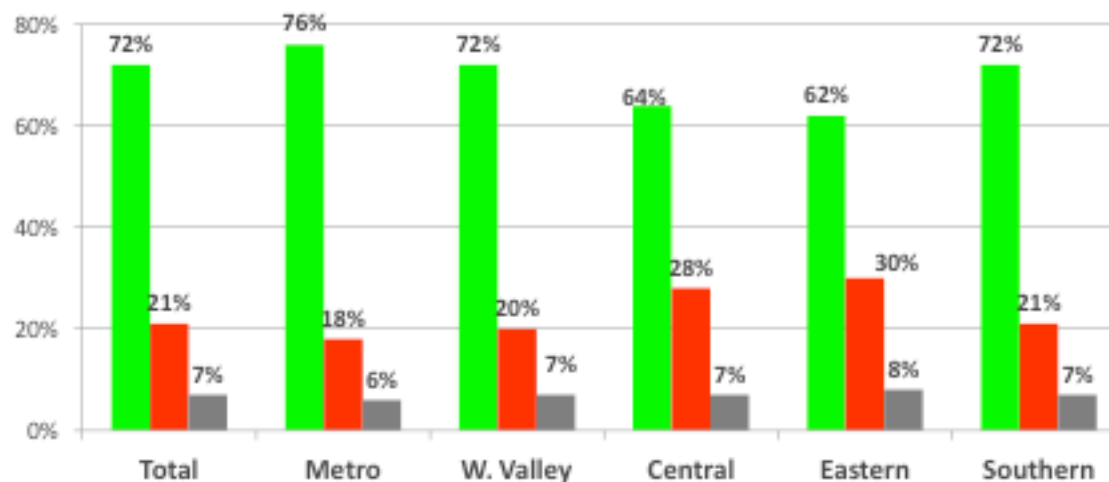
(statements always rotate)

Statement A:

Climate change requires us to change our way of life such as driving less or living more simply.

Statement B:

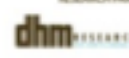
If climate change becomes a problem, we can deal with it later.



Values & Beliefs
PROJECT



RESEARCH PARTNERS



Oregon Opinion on Climate Change April 2015

Thinking about global warming, would you support a law in Oregon requiring businesses that sell or produce greenhouse gas producing products to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions? **(Wait and ask: Is that strongly or somewhat?)**

Response Category	N=340
Strongly support	40%
Somewhat support	20%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	20%
[DNR] Don't know	7%

Oregon Opinion on Climate Change May 2015

Q5. How much do you agree or disagree with this statement: there should be stronger government policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	N	PERCENT	AGGREGATE PERCENT
Strongly agree	180	44.8%	69.7%
Somewhat agree	100	24.9%	
Somewhat disagree	49	12.2%	28.4%
Strongly disagree	65	16.2%	
(DO NOT READ) Don't know	6	2%	2%

OREGON LIVE. “They’re Done: Oregon Legislature adjourns 2015 session”



A background image of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is a bright, glowing orb on the horizon, casting a warm orange and yellow light across the sky and reflecting on the water. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a pale blue at the top. The ocean surface is dark with some white-capped waves visible in the foreground.

The Planet on the Docket

“[Judicial relief] may be the best, the last, and, at this late stage, the only real chance to preserve a habitable planet for young people and future generations.” -*Dr. James Hansen*