



Instructions: Please read the letter, fill out all information at the end, and sign it. Then, return the signed letter to the volunteer who gave it to you, or mail to: Sherrill Rinehart, 448 Tucker Street, Ashland, OR 97520 or scan back page and email to CitizensClimateOregon@gmail.com

Responding to climate change impacts in Eastern, Central, and Southern Oregon

Dear Representative Walden,

We are business owners and community leaders in Oregon's 2nd Congressional District who call upon you to take action against the risks climate change poses to our region's economic well-being and way of life.

The Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, a network of 150 researchers from Oregon universities and other state and federal labs, predicts temperatures in Oregon to increase **3-7 degrees Fahrenheit** by the 2050s under a "business as usual" scenario.

In Oregon's 2nd Congressional District, this will mean:

- Increased soil erosion, loss of vegetation, and changes to hydrology, causing increased stress on rangelands and decreased capacities to sustain large livestock herds. *Cattle are Oregon's top commodity, worth **\$900 million**. \$738 million of that value is in the 2nd District, according to 2012 statistics.*
- Warmer and drier conditions that increase the number and extent of forest fires, impacting timber resources and human health. Predicted water deficits also increase trees' susceptibility to die-off from insect predators such as the mountain pine beetle. *Oregon's timber industry supported **58,800 jobs** in 2013.*
- Risks to both the quality and yield of agricultural commodities posed by reduced summer water flows and more extreme temperatures. The extreme variability in mountain snowpack in recent years is forcing costly adaptations and development of climate-resilient technologies. *Agriculture is a backbone of Oregon's economy, generating **\$5.4 billion** in 2014. In the 2nd District alone, there were more than 22,000 farm operators producing \$2.4 billion of agricultural products in 2012.*
- Seasonally altered water levels in streams and rivers, creating negative impacts on salmon and steelhead runs as well as recreation and tourism on the Deschutes, Grande Ronde, John Day rivers and other eastern Oregon tributaries of the Columbia. *Oregon's tourism industry was worth **\$10.8 billion** and supported **105,500 jobs** in 2015.*

As you know, these effects are compounded by the rural nature of the 2nd Congressional District. Compared to the more urban western part of Oregon, our rural communities face physical isolation, exhibit higher poverty rates, and have poorer access to resources such as health care. Crucially, the District has fewer economic opportunities that do not rely on the climate-impacted natural resources.

Economically sensible, politically viable, market-based options are available to mitigate the risks of climate change to all Oregonians, but especially those living in poverty. Investing now to avoid the damaging effects of future climate change makes economic sense. Please work with others in Congress to put those options into practice.

Respectfully submitted by the following Eastern, Central, and Southern Oregon business owners and community leaders:

Name (Please print):

Title and Business Name:

Number of employees (if available):

Address:

Signature:

Date:

List of signatories will be shared with Rep. Walden and Citizens' Climate Lobby.

I allow my information to be shared with other potential signatories.

I allow my information to be made available to the general public and media.

Email and Phone Number (will not be shared):
