

# Activists rally in support of carbon emissions bill

By Sam Stites and Claire Withycombe  
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Activists seeking to clean Oregon's environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions turned out by the hundreds at the Capitol Tuesday, pushing legislators to move ahead with a cap and trade policy.

Demonstrators ranged from Salem-area teenagers who took time out from school to middle-aged Wasco County residents.

All told, organizers say that more than 1,000 people travelled to the Capitol to support Senate Bill 1530, which aims to cap and shrink the state's carbon emissions and generate revenue for environmental projects.

One of those local teens was Angelique Prater, 17, of Salem, who spoke to the crowd Tuesday about her activism.

In an interview, she said that her parents, immigrants from Mexico who work in agriculture, were already feeling the effects of climate change — extreme temperatures in winter and summer.

She said she first heard about the proposal from friends in school and then got involved in activism.

"I'm here today to fight for the climate crisis and to, you know, push our legislators to fight for strong climate legislation," Prater said, adding that legislation was the most important part of "solving the climate crisis."

The pending legislation would establish a new limit



Sam Stites / Oregon Capital Bureau

From left to right, Portland State student Rachel Rodri and Willamette University students Emily Grunken, Sonia Zand, Jamie Smith, Maggie Chapin and Samantha Smith demonstrate at the Oregon State Capitol Tuesday to urge lawmakers to take action on climate change.

on certain emissions and reduce them over time.

The limits would apply to certain industries and major fuel importers. The cap and trade policy would carve up the emissions limit into allowances that emitters can buy and sell on a market. The idea is that as emissions targets get lower, fewer allowances are available, and industry would improve pollution controls.

Opponents have criticized the plan for its potential impact on consumers and small businesses, particularly through higher fuel costs. Recent revisions to the legislation spare counties east of the Cascades from regula-

tions on fuel importers and provide a way for natural gas companies to guard their low-income customers against higher costs.

The event began at noon with speeches on the Capitol steps from activists and political officials, including remarks from Multnomah County Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson, Milwaukie Mayor and congressional candidate Mark Gamba and Eric Richardson, Eugene-Springfield NAACP president. Following speeches, the demonstrators marched around the Capitol chanting and waving signs bearing messages supporting the climate legislation.

The event, organized by the environmental group Renew Oregon, was a counterpart to a protest in Salem last week organized by Timber Unity.

Activists made the trek to Salem from all parts of the state Tuesday, including Dean Myerson who was part of a carload of demonstrators who drove three hours from The Dalles.

Myerson said he believes Oregon needs to lead the way on climate action.

"We can't just wait for everybody else to do something first, which seems to be one of the arguments; 'we can't do this alone,' which is true, but somebody has to start," Myerson said.

## COUNCIL

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City Manager Fred Warner Jr. said the parcel is a 40-foot by 100-foot bare residential lot that sits between two homes. Both owners have expressed interest in potentially acquiring the lot, Warner said.

If the city sells the parcel, it could use the money toward buying the larger property on the west side of Central Park, near Resort Street. That property could be used both for access to and parking for park visitors.

After Tuesday's regular meeting, councilors had a nearly two-hour work session to talk about goals for

the coming year.

Under the goal to "maintain and enhance water security," Public Works Director Michelle Owen said the city will be soliciting bids in the late spring to drill a second backup well. That wouldn't happen until the new fiscal year, which starts July 1, 2020.

Under the goal of "cost effective budget management," Owen said the city has been testing LED street lights on Windmill Lane.

"I haven't seen anything substantially improved in our cost of lighting," she said.

The units have to be replaced frequently due to bugs getting inside the bulbs and burning them out,

Owen said.

Under the goal to "enhance community livability," Robin Nudd, the city's human resources/community development director, said she feels there is a need for more afterschool activities for children.

Councilor Lynette Perry said a lack of such activities can make it hard for working parents, and increase their child care costs.

"It would be great if we were back to the five-day school week," Perry said.

Mayor Loran Joseph said he will raise that issue at the next joint meeting between city officials and the Baker School Board.

Joseph said he wants the Council

to be more involved with the Transient Lodging Tax committee, for which he is the city's representative, and the Baker County Economic Development Council.

Warner is a member of the latter. Other Council goals include (a complete list will be posted at [www.bakercityherald.com](http://www.bakercityherald.com)):

### Water security

- Support fuel reduction methods surrounding the watershed

### Wastewater Disposal Plan

- Complete updated Wastewater Master Plan
- Make communication of wastewater rates and water projects a

priority

### Enhance Community Livability

- Evaluate options for city-focused economic development
- Coordinate efforts to support existing and new businesses
- Explore marketing options for Baker City/County (i.e., promotional video)

### Increase citizen involvement

- Revamp and update city website

### Implement an asset maintenance schedule

- Focus on master planning for the golf course and Sam-O Swim Center.

## AFTERMATH OF UMATILLA COUNTY FLOODING

# Police increase presence to protect from looting

By Alex Castle  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Nate Fuller couldn't sleep early Monday morning. After talking on the phone with a friend about the risk of looters going through people's homes, his mind was stirring with concern. So at about 3:30 a.m., he got up and made his way down to his family's home in Thorn Hollow on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Last week, floodwater surged through the community and filled the neighborhood's homes with water, washed out yards, completely destroyed a small bridge and left the Thorn Hollow Bridge folded and impassable due to structural damage.

Nate, his wife, Chantel, and her father, Bill Koskela, went to the house that afternoon needing to retrieve their dogs and Nate's BiPap machine, which he could die without.

But when they arrived, they discovered their neighbors were trapped at their home. A friend of their neighbors, Archie Morrow, was already on the scene, and together he and Nate made it out to the neighbors in a boat. However, a log collided and broke the winch in place to bring them back in, and left the two stranded on

top of the house for more than nine hours.

The Oregon Army National Guard eventually evacuated Fuller, Morrow and the couple that night, and miraculously none were injured.

The Fullers, along with their three daughters, have been staying with Nate's mother in Athena in the days since, he said. But with roads now cleared, the family has been able to make several trips to their property to begin cleanup.

Fuller restlessly returned home Monday morning needing to retrieve more medical equipment. Fuller is prediabetic and forgot to bring extra needles for his insulin shots, he said, so he stopped by to grab those and some other items around the house.

Fuller said the place looked normal and he shut it up as usual before heading back to Athena around 6 a.m.

Later in the day, Fuller went back to Thorn Hollow to assess and record the damage done to the foundation of their home when he noticed a door was ajar. Skeptical of any wrongdoing at first, Fuller chalked it up to someone he knew stopping by to test the well water just forgetting to lock up when they left.

Things on the inside of the

house seemed fine and nothing was obviously missing, when out of habit he looked out to where his goats and chickens were kept in his yard before the floods washed them away.

"That's when I saw tire marks in the mud where I knew I hadn't driven," he said.

Fuller could see where the vehicle had tried to drive off the property but got stuck momentarily in the mud. He then found that his shed had been broken into and various tools, chain saws, paints and

other items had been taken from it.

As he kept inspecting, Fuller saw where someone had tried to kick the door in on his shed containing musical and sound equipment but thankfully couldn't. In another shed, he found camping equipment and fishing rods had been stolen.

After everything the family had been through in the last few days, Fuller was rightfully frustrated by the burglary.

"We can't stay at our house," Fuller said. "It's not known if

the water is good, our septic system is out. It can't support my family right now."

While the flooding and subsequent burglary has only added to an already difficult experience, Fuller was still counting his blessings on Tuesday.

"There's good people, and there's bad people," Fuller said. "You can just try to associate yourself with those who are positive and are there for you. It's been a tragedy but we've definitely had people stepping up to support us."

With homes left unattended around the region, local law enforcement is working to balance its resources and is increasing its presence to deter potential looters from taking advantage of the vulnerable homes.

"That's an area of emphasis for us until we can get more people back into their homes permanently," Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts said Tuesday.

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