Oregon Governor Kate Brown
Excerpt from Climate Action Executive Orders
www.oregon.gov

I want to be blunt: climate change poses the greatest threat to Oregon's environment, economy, and our way of life. Future generations will judge us not on the facts of global climate change, but what we've done to tackle it. Since the 1970s, Oregon has been on the forefront as a national leader. I am very proud of our history, which includes the nation's first bottle bill and a precedent-setting law to establish our land use planning system. But, we can not rest on our laurels. Under my leadership, we will continue to move forward.

As Governor, I signed into law the nation's first coal-to-clean bill that gives Oregon a future free from coal-powered electricity while doubling the amount of clean renewable energy to 50% by 2040. Our Clean Fuels Standard will reduce the carbon intensity of our fuels. We will continue to invest in energy efficiency, pursue renewable energy, and support public transit. These efforts to invest in energy efficiency have paid off in multiple ways.

Across Oregon, we've reduced energy use in residential buildings by 8 percent since 2015. Oregon's industrial sector has cut energy use by another 8.5 percent. This year, Oregon updated our residential energy building code – new homes built to code in Oregon today will be nearly ten percent more efficient than they were last year. And thanks to green buildings like this one, we continue to find new ways to reduce energy consumption in commercial buildings by incorporating natural elements and innovative technologies in the construction of new and refurbished buildings.

Efforts like these have created more than 40,000 energy efficiency-related jobs for Oregonians. And energy efficiency experts are helping our manufacturing, agriculture, and industrial sectors adopt innovations that save energy and money. While Oregon is a small part of the global climate challenge, we are playing a leading role in finding innovative solutions to preserve our natural resources, reduce carbon, and prepare Oregon for the clean energy economy of the future.

Adapted from Climate Change Tea Party by Bill Bigelow at Rethinking Schools (www.rethinkingschools.org)

Ed Edmo, formerly of Celilo Village, Oregon

I remember the day Celilo Falls and my town vanished. As the waters rose on that day in 1957, the roar of the falls fell silent. Fishing platforms and the village of Celilo disappeared under a hungry Columbia River. An iconic Native American fishing area just vanished, as if it had never existed.

But it had.

For me and other Native Americans, the memory still brings pain. “It hurt my heart to see that.” I was just 11 years old that day. My father let me skip school to watch the water rise.

I grew up near the Falls, which served as a prime fishing area and trading center, known as the “Wall Street of the West.” My family of Shoshone-Bannock Native Americans moved to Celilo Falls from the Duck Valley Indian Reservation in Nevada when I was six months old. We lived in a house built from railroad ties and had no electricity or running water.

However, we had a rich source of fish 200 yards from our front door.

Today, Celilo Falls, our fishing grounds, and my home town are under water, a victim, like Kettle Falls before it, of the federal government’s construction of massive, multi-purpose dams on the Columbia River. I don’t obsess about the heart-wrenching loss — but it is hard to lose your home so others can have cheap power.

Based on: Speaker shares memories of Celilo, the lost falls, Kathy Aney in the East Oregonian, November 21, 2017

Jason Peterson, McMinnville, Oregon

I am a winemaker in McMinnville, Oregon, where we produce world-famous Pinot Noir wine. Back in the day, we used to worry if our fragile grapes would reach full ripeness by the end of Oregon's short growing season, but now we have the opposite problem! Because of warmer weather, we need to make sure our grapes don't ripen too quickly and lose their delicate flavor. We are making a costly transition to growing heat-friendly grapes that typically grow in warmer climates down south, which has allowed us to expand our business a little. However, most winemakers like me are worriers, because every little thing can change the taste of our grapes: from just the right amount of water to one day of frost. I think I would rather have things stay the way they are and be a bit more predictable! The erratic rain and weather makes it difficult for us and I worry things will get worse.

Adapted from Climate Change Tea Party by Bill Bigelow at Rethinking Schools (www.rethinkingschools.org)

Matthew Gilbert, Gwich'in
Northern Alaska/Northwestern Canada

I am a member of the Gwich'in, the northernmost Indian nation on the American continent. There are about 8,000 Gwich'in. Because of global warming, we are threatened as a people.

We survive mostly from hunting caribou. Less snowfall is making sled and snowmobile transportation more difficult. Creeks are freezing later, and the ice is too thin to carry heavy loads. Lakes are drying up.

The worst threat is to the caribou. In ten years, their number dropped from 178,000 to 129,000. Calves drown when they try to cross rivers that are usually frozen. My grandfather remembers vast numbers of caribou moving in waves near their village during spring and summer. No more. Our environment is in chaos. The hunters find it harder and harder to find the caribou that feed our people.

We must reduce greenhouse gases. The caribou are dying and so is our way of life.

Adapted from Climate Change Tea Party by Bill Bigelow at Rethinking Schools (www.rethinkingschools.org)

Anisur Rahman, Bangladesh

I am the mayor of Antarpara, a village in Bangladesh. Antarpara is on the Brahmaputra River that flows from the Himalaya Mountains in India. We are in the lowlands, and our village floods every year. We are used to it, and, in fact, the flooding is good because it leaves our land more fertile.

But now the floods are too much. Now the floods are huge and each year they destroy our homes and carry off the land underneath them. My village used to have 239 families. Now we are 38 families. But where can we go when our homes are gone? Our country has 150 million people — the most densely populated in the world. I have an 18 month old child. By the time she is grown, this village won't be here.

I love my home, this land, and if we did have to leave where are we supposed to go?

Larry Gibson, Kayford Mountain, West Virginia

They say that to move away from oil we need to rely more on “clean coal,” mined here in the USA.

Clean coal. That’s a lie. That so-called clean coal comes from mountains in Appalachia that have been destroyed by coal companies, like Massey Energy. They blast mountains apart to get at the coal and dump everything they don’t want in the valleys and streams, poisoning everything around.

When they talk about “clean coal,” they sure don’t mean how they got it. They want you to focus on the fact that burning coal today produces less sulfur dioxide than it used to. That’s the stuff that causes smog and acid rain. But burning coal still releases about twice as much carbon dioxide as oil — for the same amount of energy. And carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas, the gases that cause global warming.

So mining coal is bad for the people of Kentucky and West Virginia, but it’s also bad for the planet.

I’ve been fighting mountaintop removal of coal for over 22 years. I’m not gonna sit around and watch my home and the planet be destroyed. The coal companies care about the money. For me, it’s not about the money. It’s about the land. My mother gave me birth. The land gives me life.

Adapted from Climate Change Tea Party by Bill Bigelow at Rethinking Schools (www.rethinkingschools.org)

Enele Sopoaga
Prime Minister, Tuvalu

Most people have never heard of my little island that is 400 miles from Fiji in the South Pacific. Tuvalu has 10,000 people in a place that averages just 6 feet above sea level. My people live on fish and fruit; everyone knows their neighbors and people don't even lock their doors.

Rising sea levels, caused by global warming threaten the very existence of my land and people. Beginning in 2000, at high tide the water began covering places in the island that had never before been covered in the memory of even the oldest residents. In August of 2002, the entire island flooded and the increased salinity has forced families to grow their root crops in metal buckets instead of in the ground. Many people believe that if current trends continue, there will be no more Tuvalu in less than twenty years.

In 2013, I said that relocating Tuvaluans to avoid the impact of sea level rise "should never be an option because it is self defeating in itself. For Tuvalu I think we really need to mobilise public opinion in the Pacific as well as in the [rest of] world to really talk to their lawmakers to please have some sort of moral obligation and things like that to do the right thing."

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Chris Loken, Apple grower
Hudson Valley, New York

Everybody is saying awful things about global warming, and I know that it's bad for a lot of people. But recently the new did a report on the "winners" of global warming and they came to talk to me. As they said in their report, "there are some upsides to global warming."

Frankly, I saw this coming. I knew that things were going to get warmer and you know what they say about a crisis: It's also an opportunity.

I live in a beautiful place. Rolling hills. Good for apple trees. But I decided to diversify. Right next to the apples, I planted peach, apricot, and plum trees. Years ago. As I say, I saw this coming. These trees wouldn't have survived the winters of the old pre-global warming days. But our winters are getting milder, and I'm betting my trees will do just fine. As I told the Fox News people: "This farm here has been set up for the future." It's not easy running a farm these days, and if the weather decides to cooperate a little bit, who am I to argue? I'm sorry for those folks who are hurt by all this, but I've got to think of my family.

Adapted from Climate Change Tea Party by Bill Bigelow at Rethinking Schools (www.rethinkingschools.org)

Roman Abramovich
Sibneft Oil Co., Russia

Recently, there have been a lot of articles wondering whether or not global warming will be "good for Russia." As far as I'm concerned this is a dumb question. Like anything, it will be good for some people and bad for some people. But I am doing everything that I can to make sure that I am one of the people to benefit from global warming.

It's simple: as temperatures rise every year, ice will melt and huge new areas will be open for oil and gas exploration in the Arctic. And as one of Russia's wealthiest men, and head of a large oil and gas company, this is the chance of a lifetime. Researchers tell us that one quarter of the earth's untapped fossil fuels, including 375 billion barrels of oil, lie beneath the Arctic. In the industry, we're talking about this opportunity as the new "black gold rush." Already our competitors in Norway, Statoil, are working on project Snow White, which will generate an estimated $70 billion in liquefied natural gas over the next 30 years. I'm not going to sit back and let them or anyone else beat me out of this new business opportunity.

I'm sure that global warming is a bad thing for a lot of people, but I'll leave this to the politicians and scientists. I'm a good businessman — a good *oil* businessman — so it's time to get to work.

Stephanie Tumore, Greenpeace climate campaigner
Alaska

I joined the environmental organization Greenpeace because I felt like I had to do something to make the world a better place. To me, it seems that climate change is the most dangerous problem facing humanity and the environment. The consequences of global warming are likely to be catastrophic, and we have to do something about it.

I've been working to save the Arctic. People think of the Arctic as just one big empty block of ice and snow. Either that, or where Santa and the elves live. But it's an amazing, unbelievable place. There are birds and fish that are found only there and a few other places. There are polar bears, musk oxen, and caribou; and in the summer, snowy owls, ducks, and swans migrate there to nest. But already Alaska's North Slope is taken over by 28 oil production plants, almost 5,000 wells, and 1,800 miles of pipes.

Further, the oil companies see global warming and the melting ice as an opportunity to drill for even more oil and gas. Haven't we learned anything? Why are we going looking for more fossil fuels? The good thing is that there are more and more people who are determined to stop oil development. We've taken direct action and have confronted the oil drillers in places like the Beaufort Sea. There, we towed a fiberglass dome with two Greenpeace activists inside into a BP Northstar oil-drilling construction area. Two other activists unfurled a banner: "**Stop BP's Northstar, Save the Climate**." Direct action. That's what it will take to stop this.

Adapted from Climate Change Tea Party by Bill Bigelow at Rethinking Schools (www.rethinkingschools.org)

Douglas Steenland
President and Chief Executive Officer
Northwest Airlines Corporation
Eagan, Minnesota

I was CEO — Chief Executive Officer — of Northwest Airlines for a number of years starting in 2004. I'm a businessman and a lawyer, and have been with Northwest since 1991. My job is to oversee the airline's long term goals. Ultimately, I need to keep the company profitable for our investors and a secure and fulfilling place to work for our 31,000 employees.

I've been reading that air travel is bad for global warming. They say our jets produce a large amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that increase global warming. So as a thoughtful businessman I have conflicting thoughts on how to best serve my employees and stockholders and also consider how my company is contributing to global warming.

Rinchen Wangchuck
Snow Leopard Conservancy
Ladakh, India

When I was a boy, after school ended for the summer, I remember slipping down the glacier that stretched far down the mountains near my village in the Nubra Valley — in Ladakh, the far northern part of India. Today, that glacier is almost gone. And I am watching the glaciers of the Karakoram mountains disappear a little more every year. One study found that each year, the glaciers lost between 49 and 66 feet, and another found that since the 1960s, over 20 percent of the glaciers have disappeared. And as global warming increases, the glaciers will begin to melt faster and faster.

Glaciers are ice that has built up over thousands of years. Because it rains only two inches a year in Ladakh, we depend on the glaciers for 90 percent of our water. Farmers depend on this water to irrigate fields, and everyone depends on it for drinking. Ladakhis in the villages have worked out a very cooperative system to share the water, but what will happen if the glaciers disappear? How will we survive?

In the rural areas of Ladakh, we have almost no cars. We pollute very little and release almost no greenhouse gases. It is unfair that other people who produce so much carbon dioxide should be destroying the glaciers that we depend on to live.

Adapted from Climate Change Tea Party by Bill Bigelow at Rethinking Schools (www.rethinkingschools.org)

Ana Silvia Jiménez,
Villahermosa, Tabasco, México

In November of 2007, after a week of rains, terrible flooding hit the state of Tabasco, Mexico, where I live. My neighbors and I helped to put bags of sand to stop the water near to the river, but it didn't work, everything was covered with water. In the countryside, the water destroyed all the crops — the corn, sugar, cocoa and bananas. Cattle all throughout the state drowned. What will the farmers do to survive?

They say that over 80% of the state was flooded. A half a million people lost their homes. It's a tragedy. Most of my friends and family lost everything. They spent 20 years working, and they lost everything in 20 minutes.

When the flood hit, we had no water to drink; many people got sick.

Why did this happen? The government has allowed commerce to destroy my state. The state's land has sunk because of a century of constant extraction of oil and gas. Logging companies have deforested the state, which has led to erosion, and silt has filled rivers reducing their capacity to hold water and making floods worse.

And some people say that the climate is changing and leading to worse storms. I don't know, but I do know that the people here who suffer the most are the poor.

Adapted from Climate Change Tea Party by Bill Bigelow at Rethinking Schools (www.rethinkingschools.org)

Moi Enomenga
Huaorani Indian, Eastern Ecuador

For years, the oil companies have invaded my people's lands and the lands of neighboring peoples — the Shuar, the Cofan, the Sequoya — in the rainforests of eastern Ecuador. First was Texaco. They left thousands of open pits that rain water carried heavy metal and other pollution into our rivers. Oil companies have spilled millions of gallons of crude oil and they continue to release toxic chemicals into our environment. And oil development has also led to deforestation. When the oil companies build the roads, other "settlers" move in and chop down our forests and scare away our game.

With oil comes destruction to our way life and the basic health of our children. And now we learn that not only is oil development destroying our rainforest, it is destroying the world, through carbon dioxide pollution that leads to global warming. We say, "Leave the oil in the ground." Why do wealthy countries come here? People from the richest and most populated countries extract our resources and leave our country polluted.

Wangari Maathai, Green Belt Movement
Kenya

Africa is the continent that will be hit hardest by global warming. Unpredictable rains and floods, prolonged drought, crop failures, and fertile lands turned into deserts have already begun to change the face of Africa. The continent's poor and vulnerable will be hit the hardest. Already, some places in Africa are seeing temperatures rising twice as fast as world averages.

Wealthy countries will be affected, too. But for us, this is a matter of life and death. What makes this so outrageous is that our output of greenhouse gases is tiny when compared to the industrialized world's output. So the industrialized nations need to raise steady and reliable funds for the main victims of the climate crisis: the poor throughout the world.

For my part, I've been working in the Green Belt Movement for the last 30 years, since I was a young woman. We have mobilized millions of individual citizens in every country to plant trees, prevent soil loss, harvest rain water and practice less destructive forms of agriculture. We must protect the trees from the logging that is turning our continent into a desert. Our goal is to plant a billion trees. We will do our part to save the planet, but it is the industrial countries that are most responsible.

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Steve Tritch
President and Chief Executive Officer,
Westinghouse Electric
Monroeville, Pennsylvania

Before I became CEO of Westinghouse I was senior vice president for Nuclear Fuel, providing nuclear fuel products and services to nuclear power plants throughout the world. Before that, I led the merging of the former ABB nuclear businesses into Westinghouse Electric, and was senior vice president of Nuclear Services. And before that, in 1991 I became manager of the Nuclear Safety Department and in 1992 was appointed general manager of Westinghouse's Engineering Technology. Today, I belong to the American Nuclear Society and serve on the Nuclear Energy Institute's Board of Directors. I guess you could call me Mr. Nuke.

You might say that I'm a man on the hot seat these days. Not only are we running out of easy-to-find oil, but oil is blamed for global warming. Coal is an abundant source of power, but it produces even larger amounts of greenhouse gases than oil. Because I'm head-man at Westinghouse Electric, people are looking to my company for solutions. The solution is obvious to me: nuclear power. As I tell my employees, "What's good for the planet is good for Westinghouse."

Global warming could destroy much of life on earth. But nuclear power produces no greenhouse gases. They say nuclear power has dangers. Well, last year 5,200 Chinese coal miners died in accidents — and that's a lot more than have ever been hurt in a nuclear power accident. I see hope for the planet and Westinghouse is here to play our part.

Ken and Nancy Tamura
Hood River Valley, Oregon

Our family has owned and operated fruit orchards in Oregon's Hood River Valley since Ken's grandparents Katsusaburo — we called him Grandpa K, for short — and Michi Tamura bought land here in 1917.

Every generation of our family has farmed this land. And then we woke up to the front-page article in this morning's *Oregonian* newspaper. It was a shocker. In fact, it scared us half to death. A study by Oregon State University found that 75% of the water during the summer months in the Upper Middle Fork of the Hood River comes from melting glaciers on Mt. Hood. And because of global warming, the glaciers are disappearing. That's *our* river. Well, we don't own it, but it's the river that irrigates our pears and cherries. Our family has grown fruit on this land since before we were born, and now they tell us that our irrigation water may be disappearing?

To tell you the truth, I'd never known that so much of the river's water in the summer came from glaciers. You see, glaciers on Mt. Hood are kind of small compared with glaciers on other mountains. The problem is that the scientists say that the glaciers have been shrinking because of global warming. I'd always thought that global warming might affect the Arctic and the polar bears, but not the Upper Middle Fork of the Hood River.

Robert Lovelace
Ardoch Algonquin Indian leader, Ontario, Canada

In mid-February 2008, I was sentenced to six months in jail and ordered to pay a $15,000 fine. What was my "crime"? Trespassing on my own land — trying to block a uranium company, Frontenac Ventures, from prospecting on and polluting Algonquin Indian land. It began when we noticed people cutting down trees on land that we had never ceded to the Canadian government. Someone had given Frontenac a prospecting license and then they had gotten a court to issue an injunction against "trespassing." But this is our land, and Algonquin Indians and our non-Indian supporters organized a 101 day blockade to physically stop Frontenac from destroying the land. I was arrested and now I'm a political prisoner.

Because of global warming, the nuclear power industry is claiming that they are the "clean" alternative, because nuclear power does not generate greenhouse gases like coal or oil. The price of uranium shot from $43 a pound in 2006 to $75 a pound by the beginning of 2008. Everyone predicts that it's going to keep going up. Canada is already the world's leading exporter of uranium, and our Prime Minister wants to increase exports and turn Canada into an "energy superpower."

There is nothing good about uranium mining. Uranium mining has no record other than environmental destruction and negative health issues. Mining companies clearcut the land and destroy the earth to get at the uranium. Uranium can't be stored safely and other uranium mines around Canada have left land polluted with heavy metals like arsenic. And nuclear power itself is not clean. Nuclear waste stays radioactive for thousands of years and no one has found a safe way to store nuclear waste that long.

Adapted from Climate Change Tea Party by Bill Bigelow at Rethinking Schools (www.rethinkingschools.org)

Eric Altman
Coos Bay, Oregon

I've grown up in beautiful Coos Bay, Oregon on the southern Oregon coast. I'm a junior this year at Marshfield High School. My parents moved from California to Coos Bay before I was born because they love the natural environment on the Oregon coast. They discovered the Coos River estuary, a thriving 54 square mile natural environment where the Coos River meets the ocean at Coos Bay. They put all of their savings into buying a small house near the shore of the bay.

The estuary has been my playground for as long as I can remember. There are hundreds of thousands of waterfowl in the estuary during winter and migration periods, and tens of thousands of shorebirds of many species during spring and fall migration. Recently, high tides have been threatening the important nesting habitats of these birds. We have noticed the high tides are higher than we remember them ever being. We are experiencing the sea level rising and it is not just threatening the hundreds of thousands of birds that depend on our fragile ecosystem, but our own home is now under threat of flooding. It is only a matter of time before we will have to move. We hope we will be able to find a new house at a higher altitude, but what will happen to the birds that depend on the fragile balance of the weather, tide and food patterns of the estuary for survival?

Carly Liskowski, Rancher

Adapted from Climate Change Tea Party by Bill Bigelow at Rethinking Schools (www.rethinkingschools.org)

Gilliam County, Oregon

My family owns a large private ranch in northeastern Oregon, not far from the Columbia River, established by my grandfather in 1919. For three generations, my family has successfully raised cattle on the dry, wind swept flatlands of Gilliam County, overlooking the deep blue of the Columbia. My earliest memories are of being outside on the ranch with my family and herds of Angus and Hereford cows. I went to Oregon State University to study Rangeland Ecology and Management, but found myself homesick for wide open spaces and couldn't wait to return home and take over operations of the ranch.

In 2009, I was asked if I would allow five wind turbines to be built and operated on my family's land, as part of the Shepherds Flat Wind Farm. I would receive $12,000 per turbine annually. It was an offer too good to refuse, and I agreed to construction of five wind turbines on my land. The money has really helped my family and my community. Construction of the wind farm provided jobs for 400 people, and now that it is built, selling the electricity generated brings in about $5 million a year to our county.

I feel conflicted, though, because the land that I love is masked by industrial turbines. What used to be wide open spaces is now dominated by giant ugly turbines, each reaching approximately 32 stories into the air. The money sure is nice, but the ranch my family has worked for generations is now unrecognizable.

Possible Additions:
industrialist need power in PDX (as jobs grow we need more power)

Adapted from Climate Change Tea Party by Bill Bigelow at Rethinking Schools (www.rethinkingschools.org)

Central Oregon Forestry -- forest fires

No more personal ice rinks in Canada? https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/20/climate/canada-outdoor-rinks.html