

RNR 150 - Sustainable Earth

Assignment 4 - Draft of State Legislative Concept Letter (20 pts)

Instructions (Signature Assignment for [Digication](#) ePortfolio)

May 3, 2020

Representative Mark Finchem, Arizona House District 11

email: MFINCHEM@azleg.gov

Dear Representative Finchem:

I am writing today to thank you for your long-standing interest in renewable energy and the environment and to suggest related legislation for possible consideration in the next session of the Arizona State Legislature.

The energy- and climate-related legislation you and your colleagues sponsored during the 2019 Session made several important improvements to Arizona's laws. As you are well aware, the transportation sector is now the largest component of Arizona's greenhouse gas emissions. Promoting electric vehicles, and simultaneously enforcing Arizona's renewable portfolio standard for electric utilities, are key aspects of the programs needed to address climate change and secure Arizona's future prosperity.

As a member of the committee on Natural Resources, Energy, and Water, you will have more opportunities to bring forward crucial energy and climate legislation. In this regard, I urge you to consider the concept put forward in [Oregon's House Bill 2020](#) of the 2019 session. This bill, an amended version of which is under consideration again this year, creates the Oregon Climate Action Program (OCAP) and requires the OCAP to place a cap on man-made greenhouse gas emissions, by setting an annual budget in place, starting in 2021. Among its other provisions, the bill authorizes the creation of a market-based cap-and-trade mechanism, through which emitters can obtain offsets the need to keep emissions within budget.

Although no single piece of legislation can solve the complex problems of climate change, a measure similar to Oregon's H.B. 2020 would help secure Arizona's place as a leader among western states and the nation as a whole. Along with our neighboring states of California and Nevada, and other states across the country, we can turn the corner on the looming climate crisis and help make the world safe, secure, and prosperous now and for future generations.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my proposal. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or would like additional information.

Yours truly,

Kathleen L Prudic, PhD

Professor, School of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of Arizona

AZ Resident of District 9