

2024 CLIMATE PROTECTION PROGRAM RESTORATION
Rulemaking Advisory Committee #3
June 25, 2024

Public Comments Regarding Crediting Early Actions

My name is Dr. Pat DeLaquil. I am an energy systems modeler and climate policy analyst, and I organize with MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together), which is a community of volunteers working on advancing a healthy climate and a green economy for future generations.

We strongly support DEQ's effort to restore the Climate Protection Program by the end of 2024 with the science-based emissions cap trajectory established in the previously adopted rules, and maintaining an effective, independent Community Climate Investment program that is responsive to community needs.

However, we are very frustrated by DEQ's continued consideration to the idea of crediting entities for early actions taken under the now invalidated CPP. If the program had not been Invalidated, some fuel suppliers might well have received allowances in excess of their need. However, if the CPP had not been Invalidated, then CCI investments would also be underway, and 2025 would be the first validation period. It's unfair and wrong for DEQ to reward one entity, especially one that was party to the lawsuit, while ignoring the equally valid benefits to communities throughout Oregon that would have received CCI support for decarbonization investments, or to the entire state with regard to demonstrating reductions in GHG emissions and stimulating investment in clean technologies.

DEQ's approach is also flawed in its proposal to credit biofuel suppliers for 100% of the actual reductions in transportation fuel emission. Many other factors contributed to the reductions in overall emissions, including in vehicle electrification, fleet efficiency gains, and increased remote work. Furthermore, we disagree with the argument that these early actors should be rewarded given that the primary driver of their actions was the Clean Fuels Program, from which they have already received incentives, and extra CPP credits would provide a windfall profit.

Finally, if DEQ does decide to provide credits for early action, 1) the number credits awarded should be directly tied to the amount of biofuel deliveries and not the baseline for the invalidated rule, and 2) these special credits should only be bankable. No trading of these credits should be allowed, because that would decimate the CCI program by offering a cheaper alternative.

A reinstated CPP with a strong CCI component is a cornerstone of Oregon's commitment to addressing climate change while ensuring that the most impacted communities are supported and that the funds generated by the program are spent in-state for the benefit of Oregon families, workers, and local economies, now and in the future.