

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 09/24/2018

**Contact:** Kelsey Hamlin, Communications Associate  
(206) 447-1880, ext. 114  
Kelseyh@sightline.org

## Oregon Lawmakers Seek Input from Climate Change Denier

SALEM, OR — At noon on Tuesday, Sept. 25, the Oregon Joint Interim Committee on Carbon Reduction will hear from a recently-announced guest employed by The Heritage Foundation, a well-known right-wing group with a long history of promoting climate deniers and obfuscators.

Kevin Dayaratna, a statistician employed by The Heritage Foundation, has authored several reports that deny that safe guards against carbon pollution are economically and environmentally feasible. President Donald Trump cited one of Dayaratna's reports while withdrawing from the Paris climate agreement.

At best, Oregonians can expect him to follow the usual Heritage Foundation tropes, claiming any rules to reduce carbon emissions are unnecessary and even harmful. **Inviting Dayaratna to advise lawmakers in this critical area undermines the will of Oregonians who expect meaningful carbon-capping legislation in 2019, as promised by the Senate President and Speaker of the House.**

Sightline Senior Researcher Kristin Eberhard writes that "Dayaratna's testimony could, unfortunately, influence Oregon's 2019 lawmaking session in a huge way." [Read the full piece.](#)

Important context:

- The Heritage Foundation staff work regularly with political figures to undercut environmental protections. One worked with Scott Pruitt to dismantle climate policies at the Environmental Protection Agency, ultimately reducing the social cost of carbon from \$50 per ton to just one dollar.
- The Heritage Foundation gets millions of dollars from the Koch brothers, the right-wing funders of a range of conservative causes.
- Oregon is now considering whether to allow Pembina's Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) facility at Jordan Cove and its Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline. Proponents of the project are pushing an agenda similar to Dayaratna's: putting misleading economic gains over severe, irreparable cost to the environment.

Those chairing the joint interim committee are Senators Peter Courtney (D-Salem), Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario), Michael Dembrow (D-Portland), and Representatives Tina Kotek (D-Portland), Karin Power (D-Milwaukie), and David Brock Smith (R-Port Orford). Here's the [agenda](#).

Any use of statements within the report must be properly attributed and, if online, hyperlinked. Reprints of the full report may be requested through the communications associate (listed above). The associate will also handle media inquiries, including requests to speak with researchers.

###