

For immediate release -- May 23, 2019

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Clean The Darn Air updates ballot measure in response to public comment and Fiscal Estimate

Salt Lake City, UT—In response to public comment and the preliminary Fiscal Estimate released by the state, the grassroots group Clean The Darn Air has filed an updated version of its 2020 clean-air-and-climate ballot measure.

“We held seven hearings around the state, from Price to Provo and from St. George to Salt Lake City,” said campaign co-founder Bob Cieri. “The overwhelming response from across the political spectrum was that our original proposal didn’t invest enough in improving air quality or promoting rural economic development. So we listened, and our updated measure increases funding on both fronts.”

Compared to the original measure, the updated measure increases the funding to improve air quality, from \$75m to \$100m a year, and doubles the funding for rural economic development, from \$25m to \$50m a year. It also adjusts the effective dates in the measure, improves the phase-in of the carbon tax for industrial uses such as agriculture and manufacturing, and makes other technical changes that were recommended by the state Tax Commission during discussions that followed the release of the initial Fiscal Estimate.

Campaign co-founder Colleen Farmer pointed out that \$100 million a year for air quality is equal to the amount that the governor requested in one-time funding for 2019. “Governor Herbert asked for \$100 million for air quality, and the legislature allocated only \$29 million, so we’re excited to have an opportunity to provide the funding that the governor requested, and to do it on an on-going basis: investing \$100 million a year, year after year, until we clean the darn air. This is a key issue that affects our health, our children, our families, and our economy.”

Next steps: The revised measure will get an updated Fiscal Estimate—a process that could take anywhere from a week to a month—before supporters can begin collecting the 116,000 signatures needed to qualify for the November 2020 ballot. The deadline for turning in those signatures is February 18, 2020.

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Clean The Darn Air is a grassroots Political Issues Committee. Our mission is to clean the darn air by putting a clean-air-and-climate measure on the ballot in Utah in Nov. 2020.

