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To: Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: April 14, 2015

RE: House Bills 3250, 3252, and 3470

Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the Committee: On behalf of the more than 20,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club in Oregon, I am pleased to provide this written testimony in support of House Bill 3250, House Bill 3252, and House Bill 3470.

As an organization with a long history working to move beyond fossil fuels in Oregon, we support these bills and believe they are worthy of your support as well. Global climate change is the biggest environmental, social, and political challenge of our time. Unless we act swiftly and immediately to curb emissions of heat-trapping pollutants, especially carbon dioxide, we will be unable to mitigate the worst effects of this crisis: rising sea levels; mass plant and animals extinctions; an increasing scarcity of crucial natural resources; a greater frequency of extreme weather events; the spread of toxins, pests, and pathogens; widespread displacement of peoples; and unprecedented social upheaval.

As you know, HB 3250 would cap climate pollution by auctioning allowances and distributing all revenue back to Oregonians. HB 3252 would set a price on carbon pollution, starting at \$10 a ton and increasing to \$60 a ton, and use the revenues for transportation infrastructure. And HB 3470 would require the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission to adopt statewide greenhouse gas emissions limits. These bills are good steps toward mitigating the effects of climate disruption in Oregon. By accounting for the true cost of dirty energy, Oregon could dramatically reduce its climate pollution while improving the state's economy and growing jobs.

Ultimately, the solution to our climate woes is to transition off dirty fuels to efficient and renewable energy. Limiting or capping pollution and accounting for the true costs of carbon – as these bills would do – are the most effective and efficient ways to incentivize the market to cut climate pollution while growing Oregon's economy. For these reasons, the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club supports House Bill 3250, House Bill 3252, and House Bill 3470 as good ways to limit carbon pollution by accounting for its true costs. Thank you very much for considering our comments and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance to the Committee.