



1536 SE 11th Ave., Ste. B
Portland, OR 97214
Info@EnvironmentOregon.org
P (503) 231-1986
F (503) 231-4007
www.EnvironmentOregon.org

April 15, 2015

TO: Senator Chris Edwards, Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Members, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

FR: Charlie Fisher, Clean Energy Advocate, Environment Oregon

RE: Support of SB 477-3

As the clean energy advocate for Environment Oregon, I represent over 40,000 members and supporters in support of repowering Oregon with clean, renewable energy. Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based, environmental advocacy organization.

We support SB 477-3 as a critical step to transition Oregon off of dirty and dangerous fossil fuels and toward a clean energy future.

It's becoming clearer than ever that climate change is a real threat to the health of Oregon communities and families across the state, whether due to more intense and frequent forest fires or extreme summer drought. Removing coal from Oregon's energy mix and replacing it with clean energy sources like wind and solar would be a significant step towards reducing Oregon's contribution to the problem.

On top of this, we also know that the public is overwhelmingly in favor of strong action on climate. In 2014 alone, thousands of Oregonians submitted public comments to the United States Environmental Protection Agency in support of rules to limit carbon pollution from power plants, bringing the national total to 8 million supportive comments. Also in 2014, Environment Oregon distributed more than 100,000 pieces of literature at Oregonians' doors throughout the state making the connection between global warming and extreme weather.

Continuing to use coal as an energy source also puts Oregonians on the hook for millions of dollars. Currently Oregon utilities can make—and have made—life-extending expenditures on coal plants through retrofits and other upgrades rather than retiring outdated coal. This costs Oregon customers and our climate. Rather than continuing to prop up dirty coal, it's time to strengthen the emission performance standard (EPS) that Oregon passed in 2009 and prevent life-extending expenditures for coal plants.

On behalf of our 40,000 members and supporters across the state, Environment Oregon urges you to support SB 477-3.

Sincerely,
Charlie Fisher, Clean Energy Advocate