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February 1, 2016

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 1574

Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based, environmental advocacy organization. As the clean energy advocate for Environment Oregon, I represent over 40,000 members and supporters from across the state.

We support SB 1574, the “Healthy Climate Act,” as a critical step to reduce Oregon’s greenhouse gas emissions to the level that is required to avoid the worst consequences of climate change.

It’s clearer than ever that climate change is a real threat to the health of Oregon communities and families across the state. From more intense and frequent forest fires, to extreme summer drought, to ocean acidification, the consequences are already being felt. Our members are everyday Oregonians from across Oregon who are deeply concerned by the threat of climate change and want to see bold and immediate action.

In light of the urgent nature of the problem, the Healthy Climate Act is a critical step that must be taken to reduce Oregon’s greenhouse gas emissions to levels dictated by the best available climate science. The HCA’s mandated cap on greenhouse gas emissions serves as a necessary backstop to be combined with the suite of other climate change legislation, both already in statute and pending, to make sure Oregon does what is necessary in the most efficient, least-cost, and equitable way possible.

The HCA would not only reduce the state’s greenhouse gas emissions to levels that are scientifically necessary, but in doing so would build upon an already growing clean energy economy. The solar industry, just one of many local clean energy sectors, already employs more than 2,100 Oregonians in installation, manufacturing, and other related fields. Incentivizing local clean energy generation and reducing the use of out-of-state fossil fuels would further drive Oregon’s clean energy economy.

When it comes to climate change and clean energy, Oregon should be leading the way. **On behalf of our 40,000 members and supporters across the state, Environment Oregon urges you to support SB 1574.**

Sincerely,

Charlie Fisher
Clean Energy Advocate