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To: Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: February 2, 2016

RE: Senate Bill 1574

Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee: On behalf of the more than 22,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club in Oregon, I am pleased to provide this written testimony on Senate Bill 1574 – the Healthy Climate Act. As an organization with a long history working to move beyond fossil fuels in Oregon, we strongly support SB 1574 and believe it is 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As you know, the Healthy Climate Act would limit pollution from dirty, outdated fuels and ensure investment in clean, affordable, locally-made power sources, including solar and wind energy. A clean energy future will improve our state's economy and create high-paying jobs that can't be outsourced, because the work has to be done here at home. Oregon needs comprehensive, economy-wide climate policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their current unsustainable and destructive trajectory and that account for the true costs of pollution.

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 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 enthusiastically supports Senate Bill 1574 and we urge this committee to do the same.

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.