



## OREGON CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

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To: Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: March 20, 2017

RE: House Bill 2020

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee: Good afternoon, my name is Rhett Lawrence and I'm the Conservation Director for the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters in Oregon, I wanted to offer our support for House Bill 2020.

As an organization with a long history working to address the impacts of climate change in Oregon, we believe that HB 2020 is worthy of your support. As you know, this legislation would restructure the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) and merge it with the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC). Clearly, given the very real threats of climate change to Oregon, we need leadership and direction from the state. ODOE and the OGWC have been critical to those efforts thus far and we strongly support ways to improve and synergize their abilities to provide that leadership moving forward.

As you all know, there are multiple pieces of legislation being considered this session that would restructure ODOE and the OGWC. In the current iteration of HB 2020, we are pleased to see an attempt to bring an explicit climate change lens to the work of ODOE. This is a step in the right direction and we believe it is the appropriate direction for the department to be heading. Of course, there are many details to be sorted out, including the composition of the advisory board created by this bill. We will need to take care to thoughtfully craft that board so as to prevent conflicts of interest. But we believe that those pitfalls can be avoided and the Sierra Club stands ready to assist in any way we can.

For these reasons, we support House Bill 2020 for its important aims to bring a climate change focus to ODOE and to incorporate into the department the vital work of OGWC. Thank you very much for considering our comments.