

Oregon House Committee on Energy and the Environment
HB 3259

Testimony by Tuck Wilson, Portland, 4.3.17

Good afternoon Chair Helm, Committee members. I am Tuck Wilson, a 50-year Oregon resident, former special counsel for TriMet light rail extensions, at one time an Assistant Secretary of State and Deputy Treasurer.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to discuss with the Committee one of the most consequential issues of our day: the unrelenting warming of the earth.

Exposure to evidence of a changing climate while enjoying Oregon's splendid landscapes has amplified my alarm.

Gov. Kulongoski's concern resulted in studies and promotion, in 2007, of Oregon's first economy-wide greenhouse gas reduction goals and establishment of the Oregon Global Warming Commission.

Paraphrasing specific findings of the 2007 Legislature (HB 3543; ORS 468A):

- Need to assess the current level of greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon and take necessary actions to reduce them
- Actions to reduce emissions will lead to development of technologies, attract new businesses, increase energy efficiency throughout the state
- Such actions, in concert with complementary policies of other states and the federal government, will substantially reduce global levels of emissions and directly benefit the state, local governments, businesses and Oregon residents.

The statute went on to establish long-term climate change goals mirroring those of other states and the United Nation. Specifically, the goals call for reducing Oregon emissions:

- 10% below 1990 levels by 2020
- 75% below 1990 levels by 2050

The legislation exhorts Oregon governments to prepare for the effects of global warming.

To assist in achieving these goals, the act established a 25-member Global Warming Commission to guide the adoption and implementation of state climate policy. *(See "The Structure of the OGWC," attached)*

The volunteer commission since inception has operated with very limited staff support from DOE and DEQ and private contributions. It has nonetheless issued informative reports on the

state's climate efforts, including five biannual reports to the legislature, and conducted a statewide public information campaign.

While the state's efforts have achieved significant emission reductions, the commission's 2017 report concludes that achieving our long-term goals will prove elusive in the absence of additional climate policy initiatives. (See *"Oregon's Emissions Forecast Compared to 2050 Goal Emissions Trajectory," attached*)

HB 3269, filed by Rep. Power with 10 cosponsors from both houses, is designed to enhance prospects for achieving Oregon's climate goals.

The bill draws on a 2015 report by Lewis & Clark Law School's Green Energy Institute titled Countdown to 2050 (copy filed with committee clerk). The report traces the history of Oregon's programs, assesses what's working well or not, and provides recommendations for improvement.

HB 3269 addresses one of the most glaring omissions of the current law by authorizing a director to attend to the administrative tasks inherent in shepherding the 25 members, pursuing research, monitoring climate programs underway in over 10 agencies, and tracking and promoting coherent implementation.

The number and complexity of our emission reduction programs has mushroomed in recent years. (See *"Oregon Climate Change Agencies," attached*)

The bill makes more explicit the role of state agencies in coordination with the commission, specifically:

- Develop benchmarks to better measure progress
- Actively participate in regional efforts to reduce emissions

The GEI report predicts that improved coordination among agencies would result in more effective reduction efforts.

Oregonians increasingly concerned about the changes in our climate from record warming no doubt expect more for our climate coordinating agency than can be achieved through only quarterly meetings.

HB 3269 will make possible the active participation of the commission and state government in climate policy initiatives on a daily basis.

To better align the commission's name with currently understood nomenclature, the bill changes the agency's name to Climate Change Commission.

What to expect from an enhanced climate change commission:

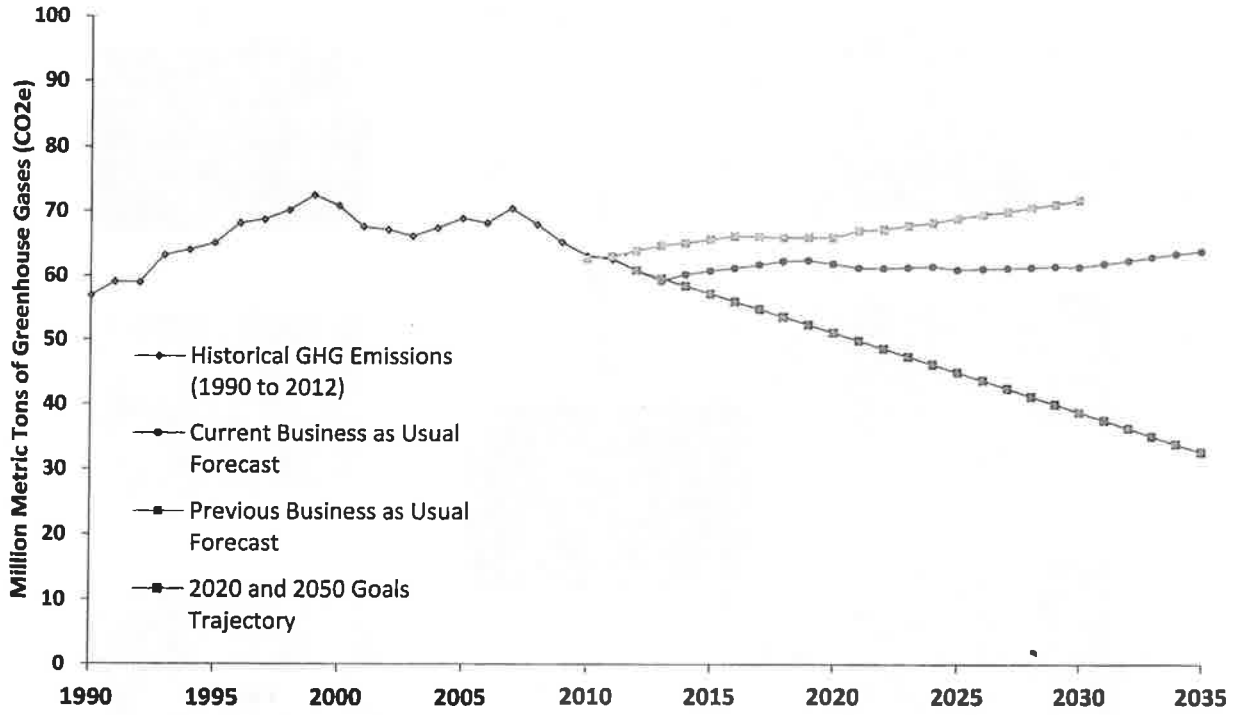
1. More frequent meetings on a regular schedule
2. Expanded communication with members
3. Improved member attendance
4. Consistent updates from state agencies involved in climate
5. More robust public outreach, including an updated website
6. Clearinghouse for public questions regarding state climate policies, programs and status

A staffed commission will enhance the Oregon Governor's efforts to recruit new members.

A strengthened commission will be better able to address how and why Oregon climate actions matter. While it has been observed that our state's contribution to global emissions is less than one percent, Oregon leadership has nonetheless significantly contributed to global solutions by modeling carbon reductions, extending energy efficiency programs, expanding renewable energy generation, and promoting private sector advances in technologies required in the new energy economy.

With our regional partners, we can help fill the national void by affirming America's global commitments to other signatories to the Paris accords. Oregon will be keeping faith by fulfilling mutual commitments with our sister states.

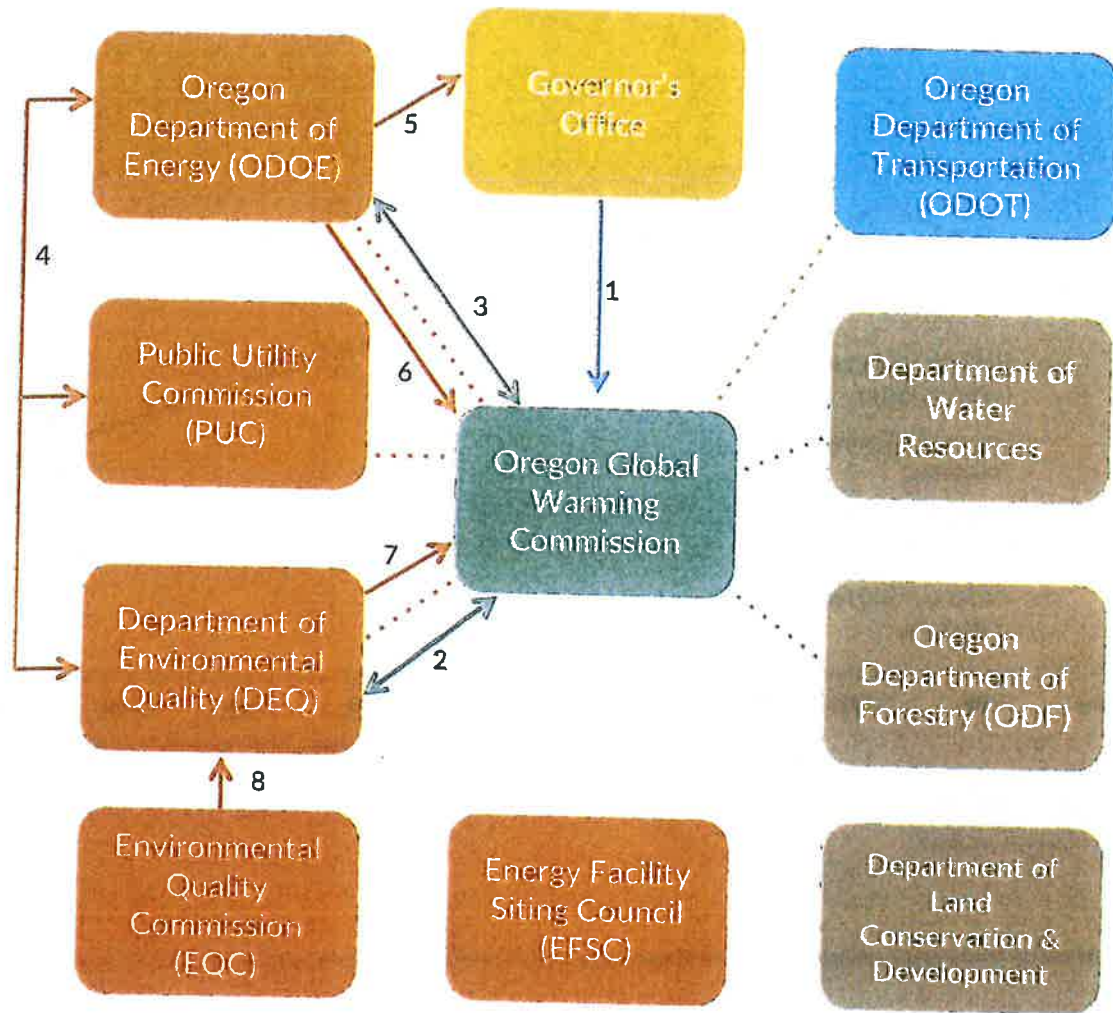
FIG. EX1 Oregon's Emissions Forecasts Compared to 2050 Goal Emissions Trajectory







Oregon Global Warming Commission 2015 Report to the Legislature (2015)



OREGON CLIMATE CHANGE AGENCIES



 Energy Sector	1. Governor appoints OGWC voting members and 3 ex officio members
 Transportation Sector	2. DEQ and OGWC evaluate impacts of greenhouse gases
 Land Use Sector	3. ODOE and OGWC educate Oregonians on impacts of climate change
 Agency director or chairperson is an ex officio member of the OGWC	4. ODOE and PUC assist DEQ in implementing Clean Power Plan
	5. ODOE submits biennial Energy Plan to governor
	6. ODOE provides staff support to OGWC
	7. DEQ provides staff support to OGWC
	8. EQC develops rules and policies and adjudicates disputes for DEQ

1. The Structure of the OGWC

The OGWC is comprised of 25 members. Eleven are voting members appointed by the governor, and the remaining 14 serve as ex officio non-voting members.¹⁷ The eleven voting members are required by statute to represent the social, environmental, cultural and economic diversity of the state. These members must also represent the policy, science, education and implementation elements of Oregon's climate mitigation efforts, and they should facilitate the OGWC's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare Oregon for the effects of global warming.¹⁸ The voting members must include one individual with significant experience in each of the following areas: manufacturing, energy, transportation, forestry, agriculture, and environmental policy.¹⁹ Voting members serve a term of four years, with opportunity for reappointment,²⁰ and must be residents of the state of Oregon.²¹ From this group of voting members, the governor must select a chairperson and a vice-chairperson.²²

Governor Kulongoski appointed the original eleven voting members of the OGWC in 2008.²³ As of September 2015, the voting members included Chair **Angus Duncan**²⁴ and the following members:

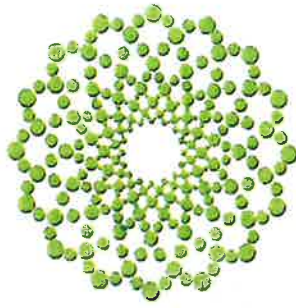
- **Alan Zelenka**, Eugene City Councilor & Director of Energy Services for Kennedy/Jenks Consultants²⁵
- **Catherine Mater**, President, Mater Engineering²⁶
- **Andrea Durbin**, Executive Director, Oregon Environmental Council²⁷
- **Jill Eiland**, Oregon Corporate Affairs Manager, Intel Corporation²⁸
- **Jim Piro**, CEO and President, Portland General Electric

- **Russ Hoefflich**, Vice President and Senior Policy Advisor, The Nature Conservancy's Restoring America's Forests Program²⁹
- **Gregg Kantor**, President and Chief Operating Officer, Northwest Natural Gas³⁰
- **Eric Lemelson**, Owner and Manager, Lemelson Vineyards³¹
- **Bill Wyatt**, Executive Director, Port of Portland³²
- One voting member position is currently vacant.

The 14 ex officio nonvoting members included the following ten agency and academic officials:

- **Michael Kaplan**, Director of the State Department of Energy;
- **Matt Garrett**, Director of Transportation;
- **Susan Ackerman**, Chairperson of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon;
- **Dick Pederson**, Director of the Department of Environmental Quality;
- **Katy Coba**, Director of the Department of Agriculture;
- **Doug Decker**, State Forester;
- **Tom Byler**, Director of the Water Resources Department;
- Two members from the Senate and two members of the House of Representatives;³³ and
- Three additional ex officio nonvoting members appointed by the governor, each from a state agency or an academic institution.³⁴

In 2015, the ex officio members from state agencies or academic institutions included Vice-Chair Dr. Mark Abbott, a Dean



GREEN ENERGY INSTITUTE

AT LEWIS & CLARK LAW SCHOOL



COUNTDOWN TO 2050

Sharpening Oregon's Climate Action Tools

**Melissa Powers, Amelia Schlusser, Andrea Lang, Celina Bonugli,
& Socratesse Djemba**

NOVEMBER 2015