

**Testimony to the House Energy and Environment
Committee on HB 3269
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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council urges support for HB 3269.

Climate Change has been identified as a national security threat by the Pentagon. The World Health Organization calls it one of the greatest threats to public health. Faith leaders, including Pope Francis, who issued the first ever climate encyclical, have made a moral call to action.

The State of Oregon has also recognized climate change is a threat and set reduction target in statute in 2007. But despite the enormity of the challenge, Oregon is depending on volunteer capacity through the Oregon Global Warming Commission to take stock of Oregon's efforts, undertake new analysis, and make recommendations for charting a path forward.

For a problem of this magnitude, Oregon needs to dedicate resources, even if just modest to begin with. The Global Warming Commission has done an incredible job with extremely limited capacity informing legislators and the public of Oregon's actions to address climate change. We often refer to the studies they have produced. But this lack of resources means that information is limited and analysis sometimes delayed. Relying on volunteer capacity means that research must be fit in around the edges and that often a full analysis is not completed.

Oregon could help address this problem by adding climate to the mission of the current Oregon Department of Energy through a bill such as HB 2020. However, if that action is not taken, then HB 3269 rightly provides resources to the newly-named Oregon Climate Change Commission. It broadens its scope to undertake additional evaluation in order to make better recommendations for actions the state can take.

Equally important, it allows benchmarks to be established to create new accountability for state agencies and new yard sticks for measuring progress towards Oregon's climate goals. It enhances the coordinating role needed for a systematic state approach to climate change—both for mitigation and preparedness.

Oregon needs a well-researched action plan for moving forward. Providing resources ensures that more questions can be answered, better analysis conducted, and a more timely and comprehensive action plan can be evaluated and implemented.

Thank you. I urge your support of HB 3269.