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Written Testimony to the House Committee on Energy & Environment on House Bill 3312

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Oregon Environmental Council**

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 supports HB 3312, which would require the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to adopt rules establishing environmental regulations at least as stringent as those provided under federal law on January 19, 2017.

Environmental regulations keep our air, water and land clean. They safeguard Oregonians' health. They help ensure the unique quality of life that attracts and retains a good workforce for businesses in our state.

This bill would guarantee that no matter what happens at the federal level in the coming years, Oregon's laws would be as stringent as the federal laws in existence today. This is a good precaution to ensure that our environmental laws remain strong if federal laws are weakened.

We urge you to pass HB 3312 to protect the health and wellbeing of Oregonians. Thank you for your consideration.