



Statement on HB 4001 and SB 1507- SUPPORT

February 7, 2018

The data on climate change have been conclusive. Human factors have caused rising temperatures leading directly to extreme and disruptive weather patterns. This has far-reaching effects, including significant changes in wildlife habitat: rising sea levels, thinning snowpacks, and temperature fluctuations risk doing irreparable harm to our fragile and interconnected ecosystems.

House Bill 4001 and Senate Bill 1507 provide a pathway toward a cleaner, healthier, more sustainable environment. These measures represent a good first step in transitioning Oregon from fossil fuels to clean energy sources and holding polluters accountable for the actual costs of their emissions.

We do want to flag, however, the importance for further consideration of habitat impacts. Even renewable energy facilities can have significant adverse impacts on their immediate surroundings if not sited appropriately. As we continue on this path, we should work to ensure that there are adequate rules and regulations around siting and adequate funding for ODFW to provide expertise in habitat and wildlife impacts so that we do not impair our broader ecological objectives.

The Audubon Society of Portland supports these bills, and we are looking forward to continuing discussions on reducing the impacts of climate change and protecting our irreplaceable natural ecosystems.

Thank you.

Bob Sallinger