



# Climate Solutions

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

April 2, 2019

Representative Ken Helm, Chair  
House Committee on Energy and Environment  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: HB 2494**

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

Climate Solutions writes in support of **HB 2494**. We strongly support development of renewable energy and increasing energy efficiency in Oregon to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and enable Oregon to eliminate dirty coal and natural gas from its energy mix. This bill supports this goal by extending the life of the public purpose charge by ten years.

Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate practical and profitable solutions to global warming. For more than 15 years, Climate Solutions has been working to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon reduction policies that demonstrate that clean energy and broadly shared economic prosperity go hand-in-hand.

**HB 2494** will enable the Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO) to continue to administer its nationally recognized renewable energy and energy efficiency programs for an additional ten years. The ETO has invested hundreds of millions of ratepayer dollars to reduce or eliminate the above market cost of projects around the state, bringing benefits to ratepayers and sustaining a market for thousands of solar rooftop and weatherization installers that provide those services. The ETO estimates that every dollar it invests results in three dollars of savings for Oregonians. Similarly, the public purpose charge that funds school projects has been tremendously successful. The Oregon Department of Energy estimates that the state's second largest school district—Salem-Keizer, has completed more than 250 energy efficient measures in more than 50 of its 65 schools. These projects reduce the operating costs of schools, improve the study conditions for students, and play a meaningful role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon. A program that works this well needs to be continued.

We urge you to support **HB 2494**. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Meredith Connolly', written in black ink.

Meredith Connolly  
Oregon State Director