



## OREGON CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

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To: Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

From: Rhett Lawrence

Date: April 30, 2019

RE: House Bill 2250

Chair Dembrow and members of the Committee: My name is Rhett Lawrence and I'm the Conservation Director for the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. On behalf of the more than 25,000 Sierra Club members in Oregon, I am pleased to submit these comments in support of House Bill 2250.

As an organization with a long history of working to safeguard environmental protections in Oregon and around the country, we are in strong support of House Bill 2250. As you know, HB 2250 would require the Department of Environmental Quality and other state agencies to regularly assess proposed and final changes to federal environment laws to determine whether changes are significantly less protective of public health, environment or natural resources than standards and requirements contained in those federal environmental laws, as in effect on January 19, 2017.

The current federal administration has undertaken almost innumerable attempts to roll back keystone federal environmental laws and turn back the clock on other environmental protections. From pulling out of the Paris Climate Accord to negating the Clean Power Plan to scaling back protections for our nation's waters under the Clean Water Act, this administration has shown it cannot be trusted to protect our country's resources and public health. It is therefore necessary that Oregon step up to the plate and be responsible where the federal administration is failing to do so.

The Sierra Club is grateful for the leadership of Governor Kate Brown for bringing this important legislation, and to her natural resources agencies for the actions they have taken so far. House Bill 2250 is a critical piece of the puzzle to make sure the abundant beauty and resources of our state are protected while we weather the storm of this federal administration. The Sierra Club and its allies will continue working in our nation's capital to stop those rollbacks at the federal level, but we must also stand our ground here.

For these reasons, we strongly support House Bill 2250 and we urge Committee members to do the same. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide this testimony and please let me know if I may be of any further assistance to the committee.