



June 11, 2019

Senator Kathleen Taylor and Representative Jeff Reardon, Co-Chairs  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 5545 ODOE Budget

Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and Members of the Committee,

We write in strong support of SB 5545 – the budget bill for the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE). Climate Solutions believes that Oregon is stronger and better positioned to lead on climate and the transition to a clean energy economy if our state energy department is well-resourced and able to provide strong policy expertise.

Climate Solutions and many others look to the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to provide technical expertise, data, and thought leadership on energy policy. The Oregon Biennial Energy Report is a recent example, and we look forward to reports on the changing energy landscape, including the electrification of transportation. In addition, ODOE plays an important role in ensuring energy safety, including oversight of legacy nuclear energy issues, and in the siting of new energy facilities. A strong ODOE requires adequate resources to support these functions.

Oregon's energy landscape is rapidly evolving, making ODOE's work even more crucial. The passage of Senate Bill 1547 in 2016 and other recent legislation has chartered a new course for Oregon's energy future and ODOE has an important role to play in its successful implementation. Looking forward, Oregon will need to take additional steps to achieve its legislated greenhouse gas reduction goals and changing energy environment. Its state energy department needs to have adequate resources to inform those efforts.

We applaud the efforts of the Legislature and the Governor to develop more transparency, oversight and accountability within ODOE. It's vital that the Legislature continue providing adequate resources to ODOE.

Sincerely,

Meredith Connolly  
Oregon State Director

**About our organization:**

Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. For 20 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.

[ClimateSolutions.org](http://ClimateSolutions.org)

**Seattle**  
1402 Third Avenue, Ste 1305  
Seattle, WA 98101  
tel 206.443.9570

**Olympia**  
P.O. Box 2003  
Olympia, WA 98507-2003  
tel 360.352.1763

**Portland**  
222 NW Davis, Suite 300  
Portland, OR 97209  
tel 503.206.4837