



February 6, 2020

House Energy & Environment Committee  
Chair Karin Power  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 4024

Dear Chair Power and Members of the Committee,

**I am writing to express Climate Solutions' support for HB 4024.** Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis.

Due to their extreme heat-trapping capacity once emitted into our atmosphere, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) have an outsized impact fueling the climate crisis. HFCs are known as “short lived climate forcers” or more aptly, “super-pollutants.” While carbon dioxide is the primary greenhouse gas emitted based on sheer volume, HFCs pack a bigger punch in the short term with a global warming potential thousands of times greater than CO<sub>2</sub>.

Unfortunately, despite their potency and the growing availability of alternatives, HFCs are still used in many common applications such as air conditioning refrigerants. In fact, HFCs use and emissions of these super pollutants is growing. Avoiding locking in these destructive emissions in new applications and beginning to phase them out is critical for the climate. In fact, according to Project Drawdown, refrigerant management to phase out and dispose of HFCs is the number one solution, ranked by the potency of its greenhouse gas reduction.<sup>1</sup>

**Oregon can and should join other states to help phase out the use of these incredibly harmful climate emissions.** HB 4024 adopts into state law two U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations prohibiting HFCs in uses where safer alternatives are available. This protects against any rollbacks of the EPA regulations by the Trump administration or industry lawsuits obstructing progress in federal courts, and enables an orderly phase out of HFCs.

**Oregon is the last West Coast state to adopt similar legislation to curb HFC emissions.** Climate Solutions supported Washington's passage of HFC legislation last year. The bill includes sensible transition schedules that mirror other states. Oregon should pass HB 4024 to help avoid a patchwork of regulations and deadlines for businesses who do business in multiple states. Oregon should not have a weaker regulation or schedule than its West Coast neighbors. If

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<sup>1</sup> “90 percent of refrigerant emissions happen at end of life, effective disposal of those currently in circulation is essential.” Project Drawdown solutions, ranked: <https://www.drawdown.org/solutions>; More information on Project Drawdown's refrigerant management solution (phasing out HFCs): <https://www.drawdown.org/solutions/materials/refrigerant-management>

industries can comply with these timelines and regulations in Washington, California, and many other states, they certainly can do so in Oregon as well.

Reducing super pollutants like HFCs are a critical component of the climate response that is needed. Every additional ton of carbon dioxide, methane, hydrofluorocarbon and other greenhouse gases that we burn and dump in the air in these next 10 years will exacerbate the heat-trapping, climate-altering nature of our atmosphere, locking in a worse reality for the next generation.

This bill helps ensure some of the most damaging climate pollution, HFCs, are not locked in over the next decade as we transition off of fossil fuels to cleaner energy, cleaner transportation and cleaner manufacturing processes more broadly across Oregon's economy and around the world.

For all these reasons, Climate Solutions strongly supports HB 4024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Meredith Connolly".

Meredith Connolly  
Oregon Director  
Climate Solutions