

Testimony to the House Committee on Energy and Environment On House Bill 4024

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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

Oregon Environmental Council strongly supports HB 4024.

Climate change is driven by greenhouse gases (GHGs) in our atmosphere. But not all GHGs are created equal. While carbon dioxide is the most abundant GHG, others, like hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are thousands of times more damaging to the climate.

HFCs are used as refrigerants, foam-blowing agents, and aerosol propellants in everyday applications such as refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment, insulating materials and consumer aerosol products. Without further action, HFCs are projected to increase with increased demand for air-conditioning and other equipment.

Fortunately, less harmful alternatives are available and currently being used in the U.S. and internationally. In fact, the EPA has already identified and approved alternatives for every application regulated under HB 4024.

HB 4024 is sensible policy that keeps in place the process and timelines for a HFC transition that industry and environmental groups were already working towards at the federal level. This same approach has already been adopted in four states and another ten are working on similar measures.

We will need to deploy multiple tools in the climate toolbox to address the climate crisis. This is a reasonable, sensible policy.

