



Legacy Health
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February 7, 2020

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for SB 1530

Chair Dembrow and members of the committee:

Legacy Health is committed to good health for our people, patients, community and world. Good health encompasses more than just the administration of direct care from providers and medical staff. It also includes the successful deployment and management of strategies and policies that have a meaningful impact on the social determinants of health, including those that relate to the physical environment.

As Oregon's largest local health care organization and an employer of more than 13,000 health care professionals in the Willamette and Columbia valleys, Legacy understands that maintaining a safe and clean physical environment is instrumental to sustaining the good health of individuals and communities. Legacy recognizes that the adverse health impacts related to climate change directly contribute to documented rises in respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease, and mental health. These adverse impacts threaten the safety and physical and emotional well-being of entire populations.

Moreover, increased environmental hazards related to climate change, like poor water and air quality, longer wildfire seasons, novel vector-borne diseases, and extreme weather events, also put a tremendous strain on health care organizations like Legacy. Adverse climate-related impacts impede the continuity of care at every phase and directly contribute to increased instances of morbidity, hospitalization, emergency room visits, and the rising cost of care.

At Legacy, our providers, employees, and volunteers are doing our part to improve our environmental performance and community stewardship and engagement while delivering excellent patient care. Legacy is committed to sustainability and energy efficiency to reduce greenhouse gases and the adverse impacts on health and the environment. We believe that protecting and maintaining a healthy world is crucial to achieving Legacy's mission.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 1530.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Correia
President and Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Governor Kate Brown