

COMMENTS ON HOUSE BILL 2479

Submitted by Robert E. Yuhnke
on behalf of Elders Climate Action, Oregon Chapter

Dear Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment:

These comments are submitted on behalf of the new Oregon Chapter of Elders Climate Action. We are grandparents seeking your help to preserve a livable environment in Oregon for our children, their children and their grandchildren.

ECA supports HB 2479, but suggests an amendment to clarify that the periodic report required to be submitted by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality include the following two addition sections:

1. An estimate of the climate forcing effect (measured as CO₂e) of each of the pollutants, including Black carbon,” identified by DEQ as a “significant contributor to climate warming” emitted from sources in Oregon.
2. An estimate of the reductions in emissions and the climate warming effect of each of the pollutants identified by DEQ in section 1 that are expected to be achieved by 2030 and 2050 as a result of the regulatory and statutory programs promulgated or enacted at the time each periodic report is submitted to the legislature.

The purposes of these two amendments are to –

- provide a report to the legislature and the public to track the progress being made by Oregon in reducing its contribution to global warming;
- identify the relative contribution of each pollutant that contributes significantly to climate warming;
- provide reliable information to allow the legislature to determine if further action is needed to achieve the science-based targets for emission reductions identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Oregon Climate Assessment published by the science team at OSU, and other credible sources of climate science.

ECA urges passage of HB 2479 with this amendment.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Yuhnke

Elders Climate Action, Policy Committee