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Testimony in Support of HB 3265  
Alessandra de la Torre, Rogue Climate  
March 25, 2021

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chairs Noble and Power, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Rogue Climate strongly supports HB 3265 to protect Oregonian families and preserve local resources. Rogue Climate is a climate justice organization with offices in Phoenix and Coos Bay, Oregon with a mission to empower Southern Oregon & South Coast communities most impacted by climate change, including low-income, rural, youth, seniors, and communities of color, to win climate justice by organizing for clean energy, sustainable jobs, and a healthy environment. Rogue Climate participated in the campaign opposing Measure 105 in 2018, where Oregon voters overwhelmingly voted to keep Oregon's sanctuary law. Now we urge the Legislature to take this opportunity to create even stronger protections for Oregon families and preserve local resources that are already stretched thin in rural communities.

Oregon's sanctuary law is the nation's oldest and has formed part of our state identity for more than 30 years. However, state and local government agencies across Oregon still routinely share information and cooperate with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to target and arrest Oregonians. This destroys trust in communities, tears apart Oregon families, and makes all of us less safe.

The devastating Almeda Fire last fall in Southern Oregon disproportionately impacted our migrant and immigrant communities, leaving many of these families and workers distraught in not knowing where to turn for assistance. They were scared to ask for government assistance in fear that they would be sought out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and expressed feeling unsafe when the National Guard were the gatekeepers to access their burned neighborhoods. This distrust is the cause of many years of facing racism, discrimination, and profiling.

Climate Justice is about building strong communities. It is not only about protecting our communities and our kids from the impacts of climate change; it's about ensuring all people, regardless of race, income, and/or gender, feel safe to go about their daily lives and participate in the communities where they work, play, and live. As volunteers, parents, wildland firefighters,



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workers, small business owners, taxpayers, and youth, immigrants are an integral part of strong Oregon communities and a thriving Oregon economy that is resilient to a changing climate.

The Sanctuary Promise Act should strengthen our current sanctuary law by guaranteeing the following:

- **Disentanglement:** Builds trust in Oregon communities by clearly prohibiting local law enforcement and governments from working with and communicating with federal agents for the purpose of immigration enforcement.
- **Private right of action:** Allows community members to seek accountability when the law is violated.
- **Prohibition of detention contracts:** Prohibits state and local correctional facilities from contracting with the federal government for immigration detention.
- **Prohibition of private detention centers:** Prohibits private entities like for-profit corporations from operating private prisons for immigrant detention.
- **Courthouses:** Protects Oregon's justice system by enshrining into law the current state court rule that prohibits warrantless civil arrests in and around courthouses.

It is time we reinforce our state's sanctuary status and ensure our laws reflect our values. We enthusiastically support the passage of House Bill 3265 and encourage you to vote YES on this bill.

Thank you,

Alessandra de la Torre  
Energy Justice Organizer  
Rogue Climate