

Dear Co-Chairs Johnson, Hayward and Rayfield,

As you consider how to balance the state budget and use federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, I urge you to move Oregon forward by ensuring an equitable economic recovery for all.

Specifically, please prioritize full funding for our state natural resource, environment and health agencies to support family-wage green jobs, protect public health, and reduce harmful climate pollution.

We cannot afford to return to “normal”-- normal wasn’t working. I urge you to seize the opportunity to rebuild a better, healthier, more resilient Oregon for all, by supporting funding opportunities that promote equitable job growth and health outcomes, lift up workers and frontline communities, and help mitigate climate impacts by supporting a transition to a clean energy economy.

As you shape the legislative budget for the 2021 - 2023 biennium, I ask that you fully fund agencies working to meet our state’s climate and equity goals. By providing funding for programs that reduce emissions, invest in clean energy jobs and promote climate-friendly infrastructure, you will support an equitable and stable economic recovery that improves public health outcomes and benefits families and working people.

That includes funding to:

Support transportation electrification and equitable, climate-smart transportation planning at the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Implement greenhouse gas reduction programs currently underway at the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), including the Climate Protection Program and the Statewide Transportation Strategy.

Invest in environmental justice land use planning that ensures state climate work advances equity-driven solutions.

Advance natural climate solutions by improving soil health on Oregon’s agricultural lands, forest management practices, and water quality.

Promote climate mitigation policies that provide public health co-benefits.

Commits to equitable outcomes and environmental justice by funding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion staff in a number of natural resource agencies.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please, Oregon needs to do better!