

Co-chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward, Rayfield, Co-Vice chairs Girod, Gomberg, Smith, Members of the Commission,

I write today in support of balancing the state budget and utilizing the federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in ways that will enable Oregon to continue to address our climate crisis. Specifically, I write in support of:

- * ARPA must, in part, be used to build back better, support a transition to a clean energy economy, and invest in communities inequitably burdened with pollution and its negative health and economic effects.
- * The Legislature must fully fund state energy, natural resource, health and environmental protection agencies working to combat the climate crisis.
- * State Agencies must be funded to reduce pollution, improve at-risk community resilience, protect frontline workers all with a focus on equity.
- * Our agencies missioned to protect and improve the environment in order to protect and improve the health of all Oregonians must be fully funded.

Given the state of our political system and the continued failure of the Legislature to pass major climate legislation, it is critical that the difficult budget issues faced this year not be used as an excuse to postpone action on the climate crisis in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Daniel Frye, PhD
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