

Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward and Rayfield, and members of the committee,

My name is Tia Hatton and I am from Bend, Oregon. As we come up on the 51st Earth Day, the largest secular observance in the world with over a billion participants, I ask you to fully fund and support our vital natural resources agencies and environmental and climate protection programs.

Fifty-one years ago, before the first Earth Day and our nation's first environmental acts, our air was choked with pollution and rivers were literally on fire from pollution in rivers. We've come a long way since that day thanks to the creation of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, the EPA, and the many environmental regulations that create green jobs and protect public health and sustain our natural resources.

We cannot afford to reduce funding for natural resource agencies and state climate programs. They provide an essential role in upholding our fundamental public trust resources to clean air and water, and more importantly, the interconnected atmosphere that is rapidly heating due to carbon dioxide pollution.

I ask that you take this unique chance 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.

The cost of reducing these programs will fall on our state and its citizens. It will fall on our health and our future. I ask that you do not delay the inevitable and absolutely necessary transition to cleaner energy and 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:

- Fully fund all the program areas for the Governor's Climate Executive Order, also known as the Oregon Climate Action Plan (OCAP)
- 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.
- Promote climate mitigation policies that provide public health co-benefits.
- Commit to equitable outcomes and environmental justice by funding Diversity, Equity and Inclusion staff in a number of natural resource agencies.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

Tia Hatton

Bachelors of Science Environmental Sciences

Bend, Oregon