

Co-chairs Johnson, Rayfield and Steiner Hayward,

My name is Scott Shurtleff, a resident of SW Portland. I am a member of 350 PDX, EcoFaith Recovery, DPO Environmental Caucus and EMO's Creation Justice Team. I am writing today with concern that the proposed budget does not appear to prioritize climate action. In fact, climate change is not even mentioned in the budget framework document.

I recognize the importance of economic recovery from the pandemic. Necessary steps towards climate action and economic recovery go hand-in-hand. Oregon's budget must reflect both the urgency of the climate crisis and the critical need for economic recovery, prioritizing programs that address both.

Among the programs and policies that must be funded are energy and health retrofits for homes as proposed in HB2842. The catastrophic fire season showed us that vulnerable populations, such as low income and people of color, are most susceptible to the effects of climate change. Our budget must provide funding for vulnerable populations to live with healthy indoor air quality, while also improving energy efficiency of their homes. Doing this will create many good-paying jobs to perform the work and provide for economic recovery in the local communities.

Oregon must also accelerate its transition to 100% clean, renewable electric power with a modern grid and community-based projects as propose in HB2021. We can only achieve the necessary targets quickly enough through public investment; the free market alone will not meet the required 2040 deadline. This program, too, will create thousands of living wage jobs for Oregonians and their communities.

Our budget must also include funding to improve the health of Oregon's forests, farmlands and ranch lands, wetlands and waterways. Healthy lands and waters are crucial to the health of all Oregonians as well as addressing climate change by drawing down carbon. We must provide adequate funding to timber counties to break their dependence on timber cuts for public services. We must enable sustainable forestry practices, while eliminating subsidies for harmful industrial forestry. We must provide incentives for organic, regenerative farming and ranching practices, while reducing harmful industrial agriculture practices. These efforts will improve the quality of life for local communities, build community resilience and take meaningful climate action.

Finally, our budget must provide sufficient funding to state agencies in order to implement climate policy that also provides for economic recovery and prioritizes historically marginalized populations. In addition to the policies described in my letter, Governor Brown's Executive Order 20-04 instructs all state agencies to use their regulatory authority, rule making and economic power to take meaningful climate action. This budget must provide sufficient funding to have staff to develop these plans, implement them and execute them. The budget for the natural resource category seems particularly inadequate for this goal and should be increased.

Our budget must recognize that we have a significant carbon deficit and that we continue to run a current carbon deficit. We must address our carbon deficit more aggressively than our financial deficit if we are to have a healthy and livable environment for future Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.