

Submitter: Meg Bowman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB522

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, members of the Committee,

Thank you for accepting my testimony in support of SB 522, which will support continued climate progress in Oregon by strengthening our state greenhouse gas reduction goals and modernizing the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC). It will increase representation on the Commission and clarify its role in overseeing state climate progress.

SB 522 will help ensure the Commission has adequate staff and resources for analyzing and coordinating Oregon's current and future climate policies. The bill will bring Oregon into the 21st century by updating our long-outdated climate goals to align with the best available science.

I'm eager to support a forthcoming amendment to revise the bill to reflect the recommendations of the OGWC and Oregon Department of Energy's TIGHGER report, which is based on comprehensive modeling and stakeholder engagement. I strongly support the OGWC's recommendation for updating Oregon's statutory climate targets to be 1) consistent with the best available science, and 2) aligned with the high level of climate leadership we're seeing in other jurisdictions.

Specifically, I support updated statutory greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of at least 45% below 1990 levels by 2030, at least 70% below 1990 levels by 2040, and at least 95% below 1990 levels by 2050.

I support this bill because we have less than a decade left to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half to avoid catastrophic and irreversible climate impacts. We're already seeing deadly heat, drought, wildfires and storms in Oregon, and communities of color, low-income households, and rural communities are feeling the worst impacts. I urge you to support SB 522 with the forthcoming amendment. Thank you for your time.

Meg Bowman