

Testimony in Support of SB 522  
Philip H. Carver, Ph.D.<sup>1</sup>  
On behalf of 350 Salem Oregon<sup>2</sup>  
Feb. 22, 2023

To Committee members and staff

As part of my work for the Oregon Dept. of Energy I provided professional staffing to the Oregon Global Warming Commission. My professional opinion is that this bill would strengthen the work of the commission and make it more effective without substantially adding to the cost of staffing the commission.

Specifically, [SB 522](#) will:

### **Strengthen Oregon's climate targets**

- With anticipated amendments, SB 522 will:
  - a) Update Oregon's sector-based greenhouse gas reduction targets to at least 45% below 1990 levels by 2030; at least 70% by 2040; and at 95% by 2050, and allow for future reduction proposals as science changes;
  - b) Direct the State to adopt net zero targets and carbon sequestration goals (separate from and addition to the sector-based GHG reduction targets and renewable portfolio standard for electric companies).

### **Modernize the Oregon Global Warming Commission**

- Updates the name to the Oregon Climate Action Commission to better reflect our understanding of climate disruptions and the actions needed to reduce emissions and create more resiliency in the face of those disruptions;
- Adds two new voting members to the Commission: one representing Environmental Justice communities, one representing youth;
- Adds additional agency representatives as ex-officio (non-voting) members in order to better coordinate the state's efforts, and clarifies the role of the Commission in overseeing the progress being made by state agencies in meeting climate goals.

Thank you for your great work to improve the lives of Oregonians and for the opportunity to provide written and oral testimony.

---

<sup>1</sup> My Ph.D. is in Natural Resource and Utility Economics from Johns Hopkins University. From 1980 to 2017 I worked for the Oregon Dept. of Energy and Public Utility Commission mostly as a senior energy policy analyst.

<sup>2</sup> 350 Salem OR is a chapter of 350.org, an international non-profit dedicated to reducing climate pollution and human-caused climate disruptions, such as the 2020 Labor Day Santiam Canyon wildfire, the June 2021 heat dome event and the 2023 "Fir-magedon" dieoff of true fir trees in central and eastern Oregon.