



**TO:** Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Committee Members  
**FR:** Teryn Yazdani, Staff Attorney & Climate Policy Manager  
**DT:** February 23, 2023

**RE: Testimony to the Senate Committee on Energy & Environment in Support of SB 522**

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Beyond Toxics, a state-wide environmental justice nonprofit, and thousands of our supporters across the state, I am writing to express my strong support of SB 522 with amendments. Beyond Toxics is an organization that emphasizes environmental justice, climate justice, and community engagement. We are active participants in climate policy and thus wholly support this critical legislation. SB 522 will help ensure the Commission has adequate staff and resources to provide the important analysis and coordination needed to advance Oregon's existing and future climate policies. This bill will also bring our state into the 21st Century by updating long-outdated climate goals to align with the best available science.

This legislation will change the name of the Oregon Global Warming Commission to the Oregon Climate Action Commission (Commission). This change reflects the change in our approach to addressing the climate crisis and is more in line with the modern climate movement. This change also more accurately reflects the Commission's many responsibilities in addressing the climate crisis, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing our state's climate resiliency.

This legislation also increases the voting membership of the Commission by adding appointments for environmental justice and youth leaders. This is a necessary addition that will bring more diverse expertise and added capacity to equitably support the Commission's climate work. Our environmental justice communities and youth are often underrepresented parties in the broader environmental and climate movements. This added capacity is a necessary step towards increasing equity and amplifying the voices of Oregon's frontline communities. Additionally, expanding the Commission's nonvoting members to include more representatives from our state agencies will help ensure more collaborative, cohesive, and coordinated climate action state-wide. The climate crisis is an all-hands-on-deck issue; we need more coordinated efforts across our agencies to better reach our state's climate goals.

Finally, this bill will explicitly integrate Oregon's updated greenhouse gas reduction and carbon sequestration goals to more accurately reflect the best available science and the Commission's Roadmap Report. With anticipated amendments, SB 522 will: (1) 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; and (2) Direct the State to adopt net zero targets and carbon sequestration goals (separate from and addition to the sector-based GHG reduction targets).

For these reasons, **I strongly urge you to support SB 522 with the forthcoming amendment.** Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Teryn Yazdani  
Staff Attorney & Climate Policy Manager