

Senate Committee on Energy & Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

February 23, 2023

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

OEC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization that for over 50 years has worked to advance innovative, equitable, and lasting solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges. We are pleased to offer enthusiastic support for SB 522, which will support continued climate progress in Oregon by strengthening our long-outdated state greenhouse gas reduction goals and modernizing the Oregon Global Warming Commission.

Since its establishment in 2007, the Oregon Global Warming Commission has served as an incredible asset to the state. The Commission consistently punches above its weight, utilizing limited resources and staff to conduct extensive modeling, stakeholder engagement, and cross-agency coordination to inform and identify the policies needed for Oregon to tackle the climate crisis and build an inclusive, thriving clean energy economy. SB 522 will help ensure the Commission has adequate staff, representation, and resources to support the important analysis and coordination needed to advance Oregon's existing and future climate policies, which will be all the more important as we enter the final years in the decisive decade for climate action.

The bill will also update Oregon's long-outdated climate goals to align with the best available science. Despite broad scientific consensus on the need for accelerated climate emissions reductions to avoid irreversible climate impacts, as well as devastating climate impacts threatening lives and livelihoods of Oregonians across the state, Oregon has not updated its climate goals in 15 years.

We look forward to supporting forthcoming amendments to SB 522 that will strengthen Oregon's sector-based climate targets to reflect the best available science consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees celsius. **Specifically, we 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.** These updated state targets will better align us with neighboring West Coast jurisdictions and President Biden's nationally determined contribution (NDC) commitment to cut U.S. emissions in half by 2030. Near-term emissions reductions will also provide public health and economic co-benefits, by improving air quality and health outcomes, and by positioning Oregon to be a leader in producing clean energy technologies that the entire world is seeking in the clean energy transition.

For these reasons and other reasons, **OEC strongly urges the committee's support on SB 522 with the forthcoming amendments.**

Sincerely,

Nora Apter
Climate Program Director
Oregon Environmental Council