

PORTLAND CHAPTER

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members Golden, Hayden, and Lieber,

The Portland Chapter of the Climate Reality Project strongly supports SB 522, which updates the Oregon Global Warming Commission to

- 1. make the commission more representative of Oregonians,
- 2. enhance collaboration between state agencies on the essential work of mitigating climate change and creating resilience to its effects that we already face,
- 3. invest in the success of Oregon's climate action by adding staff to the commission,
- 4. update statutory targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions in line with the best available science, and
- 5. rename the commission the Oregon Climate Action Commission.

We strongly support the forthcoming amendment to update statutory targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions to 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, in line with the recommendations of the OGWC and Oregon Department of Energy's TIGHGER report. We also encourage a clear directive to state agencies to implement and enforce regulations consistent with these targets.

We applaud the addition of a youth member and the addition of at least one member with significant experience in environmental justice as voting members. This change, as well as increasing staffing and bringing together multiple state agencies—including the Health Authority, the Watershed Enhancement Board, the Department of Consumer and Business Services, and the Housing and Community Services Department—is indispensable to meeting Oregon's climate goals and promoting a healthy and equitable future.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the committee to support SB 522 with the forthcoming amendment.

Thank you.

Helena Birecki Legislative committee co-chair Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter ****

About The Climate Reality Project

The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led group affiliated with the international non-profit The Climate Reality Project founded by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every sector of society. With a global movement more than 5 million strong and a grassroots network of trained Climate Reality Leader activists, we're spreading the truth about the climate crisis and building popular support for clean energy solutions. For more information, visit the Portland Chapter at https://climaterealitypdx.com/, and the Climate Reality Project at www.climaterealityproject.org or on Twitter at @ClimateReality.