



Testimony to the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment In support of HB 3196 Implementation Fee for Climate Protection Program

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, members of the House Climate, Energy and Environment Committee,

My name is Dr. Pat DeLaquil, and I am an energy system modeler and climate policy expert. I live in Gresham, and organize with the Metro Climate Action Team, which is a community of volunteers working to ensure Oregon is a leader in addressing the climate crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 3196, which will enable strong implementation of Oregon's cornerstone Climate Protection Program (or CPP), which was adopted with widespread support following a robust year and a half long rulemaking process. I and several MCAT members participated in that process, and one of the key innovative features of the CPP is its Community Climate Investment Program, which allows regulated entities to invest in clean energy projects in Oregon communities instead of reducing some of their own climate pollution.

Compared to previous offset programs, the Community Climate Investment Program is a win-win for both regulated entities – who get flexibility in achieving their required emissions reductions, and Oregon communities – BIPOC, Tribal, low-income, rural, and coastal, which will receive meaningful investments in cleaner and healthier infrastructure. while doing what science says is necessary to avoid catastrophic climate impacts.

The CPP is a cornerstone of Oregon's climate protection policy and absolutely essential to achieving the state's climate pollution goals. However, without adequate oversight and accountability, Oregon could fall short of its climate and equity goals. By allowing the Department of Environmental Quality to charge a small fee against the program revenues, HB 3196 will enabling DEQ to provide key oversight and accountability to ensure the Community Climate Investment Program achieves its intended climate pollution reduction goals and community benefits, including job creation, economic development, and cleaner, cheaper, healthier energy and transportation options in environmental justice communities across Oregon.

On behalf of the MCAT Steering Committee, I strongly urge you to support HB 3196. Thank you for your time.

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