

Co-chairs Steiner and Sanchez, and members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Britney VanCitters, and I live in the Lents neighborhood in SE Portland. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of a strong, strategic, climate-smart 2023-25 biennium budget.

I want to add my voice to the many people you will hear asking to make sure that Oregon doesn't miss the historic opportunity of billions of dollars in federal investments for individuals, state and local governments, and the private sector from the Inflation Reduction Act. A modest investment today will help families have safer and cleaner homes, help communities reduce climate pollution, and create local clean energy jobs that can't be exported and will help our state weather any coming recession.

The 2023 biennium budget presents a vital opportunity to leverage historic federal funding for Oregon and drive smart investments to improve public health, cut climate pollution, create family-wage jobs, and drive down costs for Oregonians across the state. Unfortunately, key investments outlined in the [People's Budget](#), including to increase climate resilience, are not adequately funded under the Co-Chairs Budget Framework. Legislators must invest in climate and communities now - rather than reserving even more revenue in our already strong and healthy rainy day fund.

The legislature must prioritize a strategic climate budget that:

1. Positions Oregon to leverage unprecedented federal funding opportunities to maximize benefits for climate, jobs and justice;
2. Ensures State agencies are adequately funded and staffed to implement existing climate programs and policies, like Climate Protection Program and the Oregon Climate Action Plan; and
3. Invests in new programs to help achieve Oregon's climate goals and build healthy, resilient communities, for example Resilient Efficient Buildings standards and Natural Climate Solutions.

Our state natural resources agencies are a mere 2% of the state budget; this is the last place the legislature should be looking to save pennies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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