



Testimony to the Joint Ways & Means Committee On HB 5018 (DEQ Budget)

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of a strong, strategic, climate-smart 2023-25 biennium budget. Specifically, Oregon has a critical opportunity to leverage historic federal funding and drive smart investments that will 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 those needed 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.

In my remaining testimony, I will focus on SB 5018, which will provide funding for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Ever-worsening climate impacts across the state have made it *clearer than ever* that we need to reduce emissions and protect Oregon communities on the frontline of climate impacts. Over the past few years through both Executive Order and several new bills, Oregon has responded by initiating strong programs, including the Climate Protection Program, Clean Fuels Program, Clean Truck Rules, and other programs that DEQ is responsible for managing.

We strongly urge your support of several Policy Option Packages related to implementation of these programs.

- POP 114, to support implementation of the Climate Protection and the Clean Fuels Programs
- POP 115, to support implementation of the Community Climate Investment program
- POP 140, to support Environmental Justice coordination
- POP 142, to support state and federal grant coordination
- POP 110, to support implementation of Title V of the federal Clean Air Act, and
- POP 112, to add a transportation manager and fund a med/heavy duty truck charging pilot project

Although the funding for implementation of these programs is significant relative to the gaps in the state budget, the costs of inaction—meaning failure to achieve science-based emission reduction targets—may be higher than the state's economy can bear. Climate change is already producing devastating impacts in Oregon, and the destruction caused by recent climate-influenced weather events and natural disasters, such as wildfires, droughts, and unprecedented heat waves, have already cost lives and generated billions of dollars in costs to Oregonians and to the state budget.



These critical DEQ support POPs are needed to ensure the enacted programs reduce climate pollution and protect public health while creating cleaner, cheaper, and healthier energy and transportation options that will also create jobs and economic development to benefit Oregonians.

For these reasons, the Metro Climate Action Team strongly urges you to support HB 5018 and other critical investments in the People's Budget.

Metro Climate Action Team Steering Committee:

Brett Baylor, Rick Brown, Linda Craig, Pat DeLaquil, Dan Frye, Debby Garman, KB Mercer, Michael Mitton, Rich Peppers, Rand Schenck, Jane Stackhouse, and Catherine Thomasson