



April 8, 2023

Joint Ways & Means Committee

Co-chairs Steiner and Sanchez, members of the Committee, my name is Karen Harrington, testifying on behalf of the Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter. I am also testifying as a mother and grandmother concerned about my family's future. The future of all our families.

Thank you for taking on the difficult task of putting together our state budget with the awesome responsibility of meeting so many critical needs in Oregon. While I was unable to testify at the Portland Ways and Means Committee meeting on April 8, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of a strong, strategic, climate-smart 2023-25 biennium budget.

This year's budget presents the opportunity to leverage historic federal funding for Oregon and drive smart investments to improve public health, cut climate pollution, create good paying jobs, and reduce costs for all Oregonians.

We ask you to fund a climate budget that:

- Allows Oregon to leverage unprecedented federal funding to maximize benefits for climate, jobs and justice;
- Ensures State agencies are adequately funded to implement existing climate programs and policies; and

- Invests in new programs to help achieve our climate goals and build healthy, resilient communities, including the 2023 *legislation targeting Resilient, Efficient Buildings and natural climate solutions*.

My grand-daughter was born June 23, 2021, we brought her home in 116 degree heat; all Oregonians have been impacted by climate-change-fueled extreme heat and cold, drought, or wildfires. As you gear up to quickly build homes to meet the housing crisis, please remember to also build smart - First, ensure that new and existing homes and businesses have access to efficiency solutions like heat pumps which give cooling in the summer and are more efficient for winter heating. Second, ensure we are using natural climate solutions for resilience--reducing flooding and landslides, and supporting healthier air and water.

This 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our budget concerns.

Karen Harrington
Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter
Legislative Committee, Co-Chair

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.