



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



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Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
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RE: Letter of Support for the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of the Subcommittee,

A key element of the Oregon Department of Energy's mission is to help Oregonians make informed decisions. In delivering on this mission, we provide educational resources to support policy makers, local governments, industry, energy stakeholders, and the general public in solving energy challenges and meeting Oregon's energy, economic, and climate goals. We often do this work in partnership with Oregon's institutions of higher learning, which provide reliable, objective, and relevant science that we can use. Examples of recent areas of collaboration include speaking to students involved in the University of Oregon's Green Business Initiative; touring Oregon State University's Wave Research Laboratory; providing guest lectures at Portland State; and the Oregon Renewable Siting Assessment project we recently completed in partnership with Oregon State University's Institute for Natural Resources. These partnerships have been vital to ODOE as we both teach and learn about energy issues in Oregon.

One such important collaborator is the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI), a partnership among Oregon's higher education establishments housed at Oregon State University. We are submitting this letter today to share some of the reasons why we support OCCRI and appreciate the important work that takes place there.

Since its creation by the Oregon State Legislature in 2007, OCCRI has provided invaluable services to Oregon's state government, local jurisdictions, and tribes. Through its reports, workshops, and online tools, OCCRI has increased the capacity of the state to assess and plan for the local risks of climate change. The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) and the Oregon Global Warming Commission have relied on OCCRI's work and expertise to combat climate change.

OCCRI has conducted localized research, monitoring, and analysis to detect and accurately describe anticipated climate change impacts. Over its tenure, OCCRI's team of scientists have published hundreds of high-impact peer-reviewed papers, advancing the state of the science. OCCRI's biennial state-level climate assessments have provided unique state-specific information for ODOE's climate-related work, such as the 2018 inaugural Biennial Energy Report and subsequent reports in 2020 and 2022.^{i, ii, iii} OCCRI's assessments and tools have served as critical assets to inform ODOE's ongoing efforts to characterize the vulnerability of

key energy infrastructure and systems to climate impacts.^{iv} OCCRI's climate assessment reports and 2019 climate risk workshop have also provided vital information and training for Oregon's Interagency Climate Adaptation Framework.^v

OCCRI's climate assessment reports have also been heavily used to inform the work of the Oregon Global Warming Commission.^{vi, vii, viii, ix, x, xi, xii, xiii} By providing and presenting decision-relevant information on both the observed and expected changes of climate change and extreme events, OCCRI has supported the Commission's ability to provide informed recommendations to the Legislature and Governor on climate action.

OCCRI also plays a critical role in helping Oregon address climate change. In 2019 and 2020, OCCRI's scientists provided invited testimony to the Legislature on the science of climate change to inform climate policy.^{xiv, xv} Beyond Oregon, OCCRI has contributed to national and international assessments of climate change, including the National Climate Assessments and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessment reports—two leading bodies of climate science.^{xvi} By incorporating information on our state's and region's observed climate trends, OCCRI has served the important role of representing Oregon's climate experience while contributing to the larger scientific body of evidence at the national and international scale.



Janine Benner
Director
Oregon Department of Energy

ⁱ Cited in ODOE 2018 Biennial Energy Report (Ch. 2, p. 53; Ch. 5, p. 25) <https://energyinfo.oregon.gov/ber>

ⁱⁱ Cited in ODOE 2020 Biennial Energy Report (Policy Briefs, p. 2, p. 16, and p. 27-43).

ⁱⁱⁱ Cited in ODOE 2022 Biennial Energy Report (Policy Briefs, p. 493). A brief summary of OCCRI's key activities as part of Oregon's ecosystem of state climate programs and actions is also included in the Oregon State Climate Programs and Actions Policy Brief, p. 359)

^{iv} Data used to inform Policy Brief on Climate Vulnerability Assessment in ODOE 2020 Biennial Energy Report.

^v Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (Dalton, M. and others). 2019. Oregon Climate Change Effects, Likelihood, and Consequences Workshop. Summary Report. Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon. https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/NH/Documents/Apx_9.1.24_ORClmChgWkshpSumRpt_Fall2019.pdf

^{vi} 2023 OGWC Biennial Report (p. 4-8):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/64275b98de28d74ea4a96dc3/1680300956035/2023-Legislative-Report.pdf>

^{vii} 2020 OGWC Biennial Report (p. 6-8):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5fe137fac70e3835b6e8f58e/1608595458463/2020-OGWC-Biennial-Report-Legislature.pdf>

^{viii} 2018 OGWC Biennial Report (p. 16, p.18, p.28, p. 30):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5c2e415d0ebbe8aa6284fdef/1546535266189/2018-OGWC-Biennial-Report.pdf>

^{ix} 2018 OGWC Forest Carbon Accounting Project Report: Appendix D: Summary of Oregon Forest Ecosystem Expected Effects of Climate Change, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5c094beaaa4a99fa6ad4dcde/1544113138067/2018-OGWC-Forest-Carbon-Accounting-Report.pdf>

^x 2017 OGWC Biennial Report (p. 10, p. 14, p. 50):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/59dd4984a8b2b090a38f07a1/1507674513035/2017-OGWC-Legislative-Report.pdf>

^{xi} 2011 OGWC Biennial Report (p. 6, p. 11, p. 15, p. 81):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5a04ee0453450aa7b95e9035/1510272577559/2013+Legislative+Report.pdf>

^{xii} 2009 OGWC Roadmap to 2020 (p. 52):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5a0a0ec553450af07cfb364d/1510608618426/2011-Roadmap+to+2020+Report.pdf>

^{xiii} 2009 OGWC Biennial Report (p. 4, p. 21):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5a04f1fa24a694dfd620e5f0/1510273545054/2009+Legislative+Report.pdf>

^{xiv} Invited testimony to the Oregon State Legislature. March 2020.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2020R1/Committees/HEE/2020-03-03-13-00/Agenda>

^{xv} Invited testimony to the Oregon State Legislature. January 2019.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Committees/JCCR/2019-01-25-13-00/Agenda>

^{xvi} OCCRI scientists contributed to the 3rd and 4th National Climate Assessments, and the 5th Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment Report, among others:

https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA4_Ch24_Northwest_Full.pdf;

<https://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report/regions/northwest>;

https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/WG1AR5_Chapter04_FINAL.pdf