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On Behalf Of: 350 Salem OR
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Co-chairs Steiner and Sanchez and members of the Committee, for the record my name is Laurie Dougherty. I live in Salem and I am a Co-Coordinator of 350 Salem OR, local affiliate of international climate action organization 350.org. The climate crisis is real and it requires urgent action by all of us.

The 2023 biennium budget must build capacity in state agencies for programs that reduce climate-changing emissions and increase resilience to harmful effects of climate change. Energy and natural resource agencies are a tiny proportion of the Oregon budget, yet they have major responsibilities for implementing policies and programs that affect the climate and affect our ability to weather the storms, floods, fires and drought that result from the changing climate. These agencies need adequate resources to do the job

As well as agency budgets, several bills before this Committee address these goals, e.g., SB 530 Natural Climate Solutions, the Building Resilience package SB 868-871, and SB 488 to monitor pollution from waste incineration, a particular concern for us in Marion County.

Funding for emission-reduction and resilience goals will put Oregon in position to receive federal money that will benefit the climate, improve public health, create good jobs, and reduce energy and housing costs for Oregonians. Both the urgency of the climate crisis and the current availability of federal funds demand that Oregon act now to take advantage of this historic opportunity.

Oregon's rainy day fund is in good shape. Rather than putting more revenue in reserve, we urge you to invest in a climate-smart and equitable future for Oregon communities, ensuring a workforce and an economy that is fit for the 21st century.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify