

Submitter: Diane Chavez

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

Co-chairs Steiner and Sanchez, members of the Committee, for the record my name is Diane Daly Chavez.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of a strong climate budget 2023-25 biennium.

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. As a grandparent, I am concerned about the world we are leaving to future generations. Please consider future generations when you consider the budget.

Legislators must use all available resources to invest in climate and communities now, rather than making harmful cuts or reserving even more revenue in our already strong and healthy rainy day fund. If we don't invest now, our challenges will only get worse - and more expensive to solve.

I hope that you will invest in new programs to help achieve Oregon's climate goals and build healthy, resilient communities; for example Resilient, Efficient Buildings or natural climate solutions.

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

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. In other words invest in a community where future generations can reach their potential.