

Submitter: Larry Thompson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1559

February 12, 2024

RE: SB1559

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment.

I'm writing to you today to urge you to support SB 1559 which will update Oregon's climate goals and address other important climate related issues.

As has been widely and authoritatively reported, 2023 was the hottest year on record. According to Copernicus.eu, a globally respected climate organization:

- 2023 is confirmed as the warmest calendar year in global temperature data records going back to 1850
- 2023 had a global average temperature of 14.98°C, 0.17°C higher than the previous highest annual value in 2016
- It is likely that a 12-month period ending in January or February 2024 will exceed 1.5°C above the pre-industrial level

SB 1559 recommends targeting emissions reductions of at least 45% below 1990 levels by 2030, at least 70% by 2040, and at least 95% by 2050. Given the current and projected rate of climate change I believe these goals are both necessary and with the right leadership achievable.

Additionally, I believe our forests, wetlands and possibly farmlands have an untapped ability to sequester atmospheric CO₂. For example, there are biochar studies currently underway in Oregon which not only sequester carbon but reduce the slash and the dry fuels that make forest fires more severe and frequent.

Thank you for helping to address the threat of climate change and I urge you to support and pass SB 1559.

Sincerely,

Larry Thompson
Lake Oswego, Oregon