

Submitter: Nicole Bendotoff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1559

To Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, members of the Committee,

My name is Nicole Bendotoff. I am writing today in support of SB 1559. I am a resident of Portland, a mother of 2, a midwife and a concerned citizen. The climate crisis is real, and we need to act NOW! There is not time to delay. I am worried for my children and future generations. I want to preserve the beauty and habitability of my home, of Oregon.

SB 1559 will support continued climate progress in Oregon by strengthening our long-outdated state greenhouse gas reduction goals to align with the best available science. Specifically, SB 1559 will update Oregon's climate goals, targeting emissions reductions of at least 45% below 1990 levels by 2030, at least 70% by 2040, and at least 95% by 2050. Recognizing Oregon's ability to sequester carbon through its forests, fields, marshes, and other natural resources, the bill adds language establishing a goal for the state to achieve net-zero by 2050 and net-zero-minus thereafter.

The state has had climate goals in statute and has had it as a policy of the state to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions since 2007. With less than a decade remaining to cut global greenhouse gas emission in half to avoid catastrophic and irreversible climate impacts, the urgency of the climate crisis has never been more stark. Oregonians are already experiencing dangerous climate and health impacts as a result of fossil fuel use, with communities of color, low-income households, and rural communities bearing a disproportionate burden.

HB 1559's updated climate targets will better align us with neighboring West Coast jurisdictions and President Biden's nationally determined contribution (NDC) commitment to cut U.S. emissions in half by 2030. Near-term emissions reductions will also provide public health and economic co-benefits, by improving air quality and health outcomes, and by positioning Oregon to be a leader in producing clean energy technologies that the entire world is seeking in the clean energy transition.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to support SB 1559. Thank you for your time.