

Testimony to Oregon House Climate, Energy and Environment Committee, Catherine Macdonald, Chair, Oregon Global Warming Commission, 3/11/25

Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Levy and Gamba, and members of the Committee, for the record my name is Catherine Macdonald, I serve as Chair of the Oregon Climate Action Commission, formerly the Oregon Global Warming Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide background on the Commission's support for updating Oregon's statutory GHG emissions reduction goals and HB 3477.

As you know, the legislature created the Commission by statute in 2007. Our primary charge at our inception was to report on Oregon's progress toward meeting our statutory GHG emission reduction goals which the Legislature also adopted in 2007.

These legislatively set goals were to:

- arrest the growth of greenhouse gas emissions and begin to reduce emissions By 2010;
- reduce GHG levels to 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020; and
- reduce greenhouse gas levels by at least 75 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

At the time the Legislature adopted the goals, they were thought to be ambitious. However, since 2007 climate science has advanced, and the impacts of climate change have come faster and with more severity than we understood in 2007.

In 2023, the Commission completed a technical analysis of Oregon's progress toward meeting our GHG goals – called the [Transformational Integrated Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Project](#). The analysis showed that if the state advanced the programs and policies already enacted as planned, Oregon would meet the interim 2035 goal of at least a 45 percent reduction below 1990 levels by 2035 set by Governor Brown as part of EO 20-04.

Having seen ever more dire consequences of climate change in Oregon and around the world, the Commission further evaluated policies that could put Oregon on a path to meet the 2035 interim goal by 2030. Our analysis of these new policies showed that implementing them to meet our 2035 GHG emissions goal by 2030 would create more than \$120 billion in cumulative *net economic and public health benefits* for Oregonians each year by 2050 and create over 350,000 new jobs.

As a result, in our [Roadmap to 2030](#) that accompanied the TIGHGER analysis we recommended accelerating our GHG emission reduction goals to those you see in HB 3477. As outlined in the bill, we proposed:

- Adopting an interim goal of a 45 percent reduction in sector-based emissions by 2030, and a 70 percent reduction by 2040. These interim goals are important to help us better track our progress over time.

- We also proposed a goal of achieving at least a 95 percent reduction in our sector-based emissions below 1990 levels by 2050, net zero emissions by 2050, and net negative emissions thereafter.

In addition, our recommendation included the intention to more regularly updating our goals as new science develops.

- To inform our recommendations, we reviewed recent IPCC reports, the US Nationally Determined Contribution, and goals set in other states.

In closing,

- Oregon has not updated its GHG emission reduction goals for 18 years.
- The Commission researched the goals it recommended and that are included in HB 3477.
- The TIGHGER analysis showed that being more ambitious will provide significant benefits to Oregon's economy.

Oregonians should be proud of the recent climate actions taken by the Legislature and state agencies since the Commission published its *Roadmap to 2030* and *Biennial Report to the Legislature last year*.

However, Oregon is experiencing the impacts from climate change now, and Oregonians across the state are concerned about these impacts due to their real and measurable impact on the state's budget, landscapes, communities, economy and the quality of life for Oregonians as documented in DLCD's [Oregon Climate Change Social Vulnerability Assessment](#).

Its time to update the State's GHG emission reduction goals. Again, I urge the Committee to support passage of HB 3477 on behalf of the Commission.