



March 11, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 3477, Relating to climate change; declaring an emergency.

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the more than 55,000 members and supporters of Sierra Club Oregon, we write in support of House Bill 3477, relating to climate change.

A December 2004 report written by the Governor’s Advisory Group on Global Warming alerted Oregonians to the impending risks of climate change and made 46 recommendations for quantifiable reductions to Oregon’s greenhouse gas emissions. These threats were outlined in the widely accepted “Scientific Consensus Statement on the Likely Impacts of Climate Change on the Pacific Northwest.”

Critical factors examined in that report included temperature, precipitation, sea level, marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Report recommendations addressed the need for improved scientific studies and modeling of the effects of climate change and management policies on the atmosphere, oceans and land, health, the economy, and quality of life.

In 2023, SB 522 was pivotal legislation laying groundwork for Oregon’s momentous Oregon Climate Action Commission (CAC) mandate to analyze and identify action across all sectors to reduce GHG emissions, while also growing Oregon's economy and improving equity and quality of life. In 2025, HB 3477 makes requisite updates to language of SB 522, terminology and GHG emission reduction goals consistent with practices to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The bill replaces the term “global warming” with “climate change”, reflecting the more common terminology in use today. As in SB 522, the CAC is mandated to track, assess, measure, evaluate, recommend and report on similar factors, goals and progress toward meeting net zero and net negative emissions goals.

HB 3477 reiterates that it is Oregon policy for state and local governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and individuals to prepare for the effects of climate change; and by doing so, prevent and reduce the social, economic and environmental effects of the global climate crisis. With more determinative global climate data available in 2025, and recognition of the increased urgency for consequential, coordinated progress, the need to further tighten GHG emissions reduction goals established in SB 522 is addressed in the 2025 legislative session in HB 3477:

From base year 1990 levels:

- a) the 2035 goal of 45% reduction is now accelerated five years to 2030;

1821 SE Ankeny Street · Portland, OR 97214
503-238-0442
emily.bowes@sierraclub.org
www.oregonsierraclub.org
@ORSierraClub on Facebook, Instagram, and X/Twitter



- b) the 2040 goal is boosted to 70%; and
- c) the 2050 goal is strengthened from 75% to 95% reduction in GHG emissions.

These goals are consistent with Oregon’s “aspiration to achieve net zero emissions as soon as practicable, no later than 2050, and to maintain net negative emissions thereafter.” HB 3477 distinguishes net negative emissions as “the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere being less than the amount of greenhouse gases removed from the atmosphere,” as opposed to net zero emissions.

HB 3477 provides guidance for the Oregon Climate Action Commission 1) to periodically evaluate GHG emission reduction goals, the net zero emissions goals and the net negative emissions goals, and 2) to make recommendations and report to the Legislature for updating those goals based on the best available science, no later than 18 months after the IPCC’s latest report, or the US Global Change Research Program’s published national climate assessment. In addition, the Commission is required to submit a report to the Legislature by December 1 of each even-numbered year that “describes Oregon’s progress toward achievement of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.”

The leadership intent of HB 3477 is clear: to mandate common, collective, all-sector, all-hands, science-based policies to expand Oregon’s climate knowledge bank and practices; to widely disseminate evolving strategic information; to harden state and natural resources against the effects of climate change; to leverage Oregon’s assets in natural and working lands; and to blueprint critical climate action models for other states. In short, Oregon strives to create a safer climate future for all life, human and otherwise, and for our natural environment.

The Sierra Club Oregon endorses and urges the passage of HB 3477 in this Legislative Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Bowes, Policy Strategist

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Bowes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.