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Co-Chairs Lieber, Sanchez, and Members of the Committee:

**RE: Ways and Means Roadshow**

On behalf of Oregon Just Transition Alliance, I am submitting written testimony to provide input on Oregon's state budget priorities and to urge you to **prioritize protecting and investing in Oregon's climate progress and guarding against federal chaos.**

Oregon is facing both a climate crisis and a housing crisis, and the impacts are not felt equally. We must also ensure that Oregonians can afford to live safely in the homes we already have that mitigates them from threats such as extreme heat. That means keeping utility costs low, making homes resilient to extreme weather, and ensuring that renters, low-income families, and frontline communities are not left behind.

**OJTA represents over 20 frontline communities**, or low-income, rural, BIPOC, and disabled folks who experience climate change first and worst. From the work that I do, I know that for many Oregonians, mitigation against extreme weather is not a luxury, **it's a lifeline.** We want to build a healthy and thriving Oregon for everyone. This calls for the funding of the programs below.

**1. Community Resilience Hubs (HB 3170)**

We are proud that Oregon created Resilience Hubs and Networks, a grant program that helps Oregonians prepare against disasters like extreme heat and wildfires. This bipartisan success has delivered \$10 million to communities for critical resources like basic medical supplies, water purification systems, and emergency communications equipment, as well as funds for services like CERT training. We need an additional \$10 million to help more communities prepare for disasters, save lives, and recover faster.

**2. Heat Pumps (SB 5518)**

For many families, a heat pump can be a lifeline. Heat pumps mean lower utility bills when costs are skyrocketing, safety from deadly heat, and being able to afford and stay in housing. I urge the Legislature to reinvest \$30 million in the Rental Home Heat Pump Program and \$15 million in the Community Heat Pump Deployment Program. These programs help keep people safe, housed, and secure in their communities.

**3. One Stop Shop 2.0 (HB 3081)**

Oregonians need more support navigating all the programs to upgrade their homes and buildings through incentives and rebates for efficient heat pumps, improved insulation,



sturdier doors and windows, and clean electric cooking. One Stop Shop 2.0 will help families get direct assistance from someone in their area to make their home projects more affordable.

#### **4. Farmworker Disaster Relief Bill (HB 3193)**

As extreme heat and wildfires become more common in Oregon, agricultural workers are forced to choose between working in dangerous conditions or losing out on a paycheck. Due to their working conditions, farmworkers are more vulnerable than other workers to smoke and deadly heat. By making this fund permanent, we can protect the workers who face the most risks from the climate crisis.

#### **5. Water Equity Fund (HB 3528)**

Clean water is a necessity that not all Oregonians have. We must change that. The water package can help Oregonians who rely on well water to repair or replace a household well, including one that was damaged or destroyed by wildfire. This financial assistance would be available to low to moderate income households or members of a federally recognized tribe. We can also protect renters who rely on well water by making sure that landlords test the water and alert renters of any problems. Finally, we should invest in research, outreach, and education on water issues led by the communities who are directly affected.

Oregon has a strong track record of taking action to advance climate justice. And we have a responsibility to build on this momentum now when federal leadership is slashing and burning essential climate investments. Thank you for making smart choices now about programs that in the long run will save lives, save money, and make us healthier and stronger.

Sincerely,

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