

Submitter: Lucy Kennedy-Wong
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and members of the committee, my name is Lucy and I live in SE Portland.

I am testifying today to urge you to prioritize protecting and investing in Oregon's climate progress and guarding against federal chaos. Over the past decade, we've made significant strides as a state to tackle the growing climate crisis that has devastated the health, safety, and local economies of communities across Oregon. With your leadership, we've passed legislation that helps Oregon families to access more affordable, cleaner energy sources, better prepare for and respond to extreme weather, and breathe cleaner, safer air. But we still have work to do, and these programs need your continued support or we risk an enormous backslide. That's why I'm calling on you today to support continued funding for existing, popular state programs to cut climate pollution, drive clean economic growth and promote community resilience.

We're facing great chaos and uncertainty at the federal level, including attacks on clean air and water, affordable energy, and the integrity of our public lands. If we fail to act and protect our climate progress, it's our frontline communities — people with disabilities, rural families, people of color, and working folks — who will be hurt first and worst. But every Oregonian will feel the impact.

Investing in climate resiliency means investing in community resiliency. We all deserve to breathe clean air, drink safe water, and heat and cool our homes without facing outrageous utility bills. That's why I'm calling on you today to ensure our communities are prepared for extreme weather events. Heat domes, wildfires, ice storms, drought, and extreme weather are growing more common and more devastating – and taking a serious toll on our health, safety, and economy. In particular I hope you will support the Community Resilience Hubs (ODHS).

And in any budget, please prioritize funding to support our state energy and natural resource agencies in advancing Oregon's climate goals, ensuring healthy, resilient communities, and supporting clean energy job growth across Oregon. Please also reject any new Oregon tax breaks for corporations or the ultra-wealthy.

Please prioritize a state budget that protects our climate and our communities rather than adding to the chaos.

Thank you,
Lucy