

Submitter: Susan Foreman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

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, Oregon has worked hard to tackle the growing climate crisis that has devastated the health, safety, and local economies of communities across Oregon. 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.

Climate Resilience and Support for Rural Communities: 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.

Specific programs:

Community Resilience Hubs (ODHS) - \$10 million for community resilience hubs and networks across the state to coordinate and provide access to resources and services for vulnerable populations during disasters.

Natural & Working Lands Fund (OWEB) - \$5 million for Oregon forestland owners, farmers, and ranchers to implement climate-smart land management practices, increasing carbon sequestration and improving the resilience of Oregon communities and natural resource economies.

Community Renewable Energy Program (SB 5518) - \$25 million for community-scale resilience projects like microgrids and solar + storage projects for Tribes and local municipalities outside Portland city limits.

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.

Clean Air:

Specific programs:

Medium and Heavy Duty Electric Vehicle Rebates & Infrastructure Grants (DEQ) - \$30 million to accelerate the adoption of zero emission medium- and heavy-duty trucks to lower health costs and reduce climate pollution from our largest source. Every year in Oregon, diesel engine exhaust is responsible for an estimated 176

premature deaths, 25,910 lost work days and annual costs from exposure of \$3.5 billion.

Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program / Charge Ahead (DEQ) - \$30 million to lower the upfront costs for Oregonians to purchase electric vehicles. Due to overwhelming demand and limited funding, the OCVRP program has consistently been suspended. Accelerating the adoption of EVs means cleaner air, better public health, and improved economic mobility for Oregonians. Prioritizing funding for the Charge Ahead program will increase equitable access to EVs and deliver cost saving benefits for low- and moderate-income households across Oregon.

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

Thank-you,
Susan Foreman PE