

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

SUBJECT: INVEST IN CLIMATE RESILIENCE, SUPPORT HB 3597, SB 5518, HB 3081, HB 3170 and SB 88 TO: Joint Ways and Means Committee:

Professor Ripple, well known advocate for climate action, reminds us of the importance of this moment for all life on earth. Briefly, he says: “The next few years are a narrow window of opportunity. If we act boldly, cutting fossil fuel use ... we can still bend the curve toward a livable future. ... the danger doesn’t stop with the environment. Ecological overshoot also sets the stage for political instability. We are now in a decisive moment when every year counts. Delay is not a neutral act — it deepens the crisis...” (See GT April 15, 2025)

[https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/column/article\\_7452b126-bd48-5909-86dd-f1b266c6446d.html?lctg=c8f30700811f821f&tn\\_email\\_eh1=d714edc72bf53435c2cb7599dbeb3b2780387f2e97f24628da3d9afbe2ede39d](https://gazettetimes.com/opinion/column/article_7452b126-bd48-5909-86dd-f1b266c6446d.html?lctg=c8f30700811f821f&tn_email_eh1=d714edc72bf53435c2cb7599dbeb3b2780387f2e97f24628da3d9afbe2ede39d) As a retired, very concerned scientist with a PhD in Ecology, I ask the Ways and Means committee to view the State Budget through this climate lens when making funding decisions. For the sake of life on earth, now is the time to make policy that reduces fossil fuel use as much as possible. In Oregon, the two sectors that impact Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions the most are Transportation (35%) and Buildings (33%). Statewide policy does make a difference. Related Bills to SUPPORT include: HB 3597 - relates to EV rebates for lower income people. The more EVs in use, the more GHG emissions are reduced. Lower income people are faced with two barriers, vehicle cost and availability of public charging stations. These issues should be addressed. SB 5518 – incentivizes installation of Heat Pumps to heat residences. Heat Pump technology is about four times as efficient as other methods of heating and cooling buildings, so it costs customers less to use and demands less electricity from the grid. Therefore, heat pumps and heat pump water heaters, are excellent choices for heating/cooling space and water in buildings. HB 3081 – relates to additional funding for “One Stop Shops” to help people find financial support to retrofit homes and buildings. HB 3170 – relates to Community Resilience Hubs which will support communities faced with disasters. SB 88 – relates to preventing utilities from charging customers for inappropriate expenses like lobbying, lawyers, advertising and more. Customers are already challenged by utility costs without adding these expenses to their bills.

Thank you for your service to Oregonians,  
Wendy Woods, PhD  
Corvallis