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Re: Rogue Climate Testimony regarding HB 4075

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Diehl and Nelson, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of HB 4075.

Rogue Climate's mission is to empower Southern Oregon communities most impacted by climate change, including low-income, rural, youth, seniors, and communities of color, to win climate justice by organizing for clean energy, sustainable jobs, and a healthy environment. Our South Coast office is located in downtown Coos Bay.

Community members, local officials, and state legislators know that Coos Bay cannot afford to have Bay Area Hospital close. Not only is it the only major health care facility on the Southern Oregon coast, but it also has a \$356 million yearly economic impact and creates 1,100 local jobs.

Failure to act at this point will result in a number of preventable setbacks, including an estimated 2,089 more patient transfers and 182 preventable deaths per year. A lack of investment would also result in a likely downgrade to a "Type B" facility, meaning less services for local residents and an increase of \$27.2 million per year to the State as a result of reimbursement changes and increased Medicaid payments.

This sort of investment into rural hospitals is exactly the type of support that communities on the coast are asking for. South Coast communities aren't asking for risky, billion dollar projects like the proposed Pacific Coast Intermodal Port. Community members are asking for investments that make our communities safer, like financing the hospital, building affordable housing, and investing in transportation infrastructure.

At a time when Oregonians are already struggling to afford basic needs and our state is in a budget deficit, we must act to preserve the essential community hospital by providing realistic financing options, like proposed in HB 4075. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,

Jess Grady-Benson, Organizing Director
Zoe Serrano, Legislative Coordinator