



April 12, 2021

Senator Kathleen Taylor, Co-Chair
Representative Jeff Reardon, Co-Chair
Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 5516 - SUPPORT

Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the OCAP Coalition, a broad coalition of organizations advocating for an Oregon Climate Action Plan (Executive Order 20-04) that maximizes emissions reductions, centers the needs of frontline communities, and ensures an equitable transition to clean energy, we urge you to support the Department of Environmental Quality's budget for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021 as outlined in SB 5516.

We would also like to highlight a few items within the budget and extend our support in funding these important programs and initiatives. Our coalition supports the investments and specific Policy Option Packages (POPs) that would provide important resources for state agencies to implement their climate and equity directives under the Oregon Climate Action Plan. In particular, for DEQ, we are pleased to support POP #111 (GHG Programs), POP #90 (Office of Environmental Justice) and funding for a study of electric farm equipment. These investments would provide the minimum amount of funding necessary to make meaningful progress on important climate and equity directives under Governor Brown's Executive Order (EO 20-04):

- **Air Quality Program - GHG Programs** (POP #111): Provides funding to fully implement greenhouse gas reduction programs currently under development by DEQ and EQC, including the Climate Protection Program and the Statewide Transportation Strategy.
 - Action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is essential in order for Oregon to meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets and avoid the most harmful effects of climate change. As the state's environmental protection agency, DEQ needs the resources necessary to implement strong and innovative climate programming. The Climate Protection Program and the Statewide Transportation Strategy are

two key programs that can help address the climate crisis while also providing other benefits, including better air quality.

- Both programs would particularly help reduce transportation emissions. Climate pollution from Oregon's transportation sources have been increasing year after year, with Oregon's transportation sector now comprising over 40% of our state's total global warming pollution - the largest source of Oregon's climate pollution.
 - By approving this budget item, you would be ensuring that DEQ has the needed resources to make meaningful progress towards meeting our state's climate goals, while also ensuring that we are addressing public health issues that stem from transportation pollution and other air pollution.
- **Electric Farm Equipment Study** (See Governor's Recommended Budget): Funding in DEQ to conduct a study to determine obstacles and opportunities for electrifying farm, medium, and heavy duty vehicles to reduce pollution and carbon emissions.
 - As our world transitions to electric vehicles of all shapes and sizes, we have an opportunity to be a leader in the adoption of electric farm equipment. By studying obstacles and opportunities for electrifying farm equipment we are ensuring that our agricultural sector is not left out of the transition to vehicle electrification and are able to reap the benefits of breathing cleaner air and lower vehicle maintenance costs.
 - **Office of Environmental Justice** (POP #90): Establishes an Office of Environmental Justice with DEQ and adds 3 positions to support this work.
 - The creation of an Office of Environmental Justice that works across agencies with dedicated resources will help ensure all agencies are working efficiently to ensure that every Oregonian has the opportunity to live in a community that is healthy and safe.
 - Oregon is also in need of more data and analysis to map environmental justice impacted communities to ensure that policies and programs are targeting benefits to our most affected communities in the state. This POP would provide resources to move this work forward.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Zachariah Baker
Climate Solutions
OCAP Coalition Cap and Reduce Co-Lead

Aimee Okotie-Oyekan
NAACP Eugene-Springfield
OCAP Coalition Transportation Co-Lead

Victoria Paykar
Climate Solutions
OCAP Coalition Transportation Co-Lead

Don Sampson
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians
OCAP Coalition Cap and Reduce Co-Lead

Sara Wright
Oregon Environmental Council
OCAP Coalition Transportation Co-Lead