



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



550 Capitol St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Phone: 503-378-4040

Toll Free: 1-800-221-8035

FAX: 503-373-7806

[www.oregon.gov/energy](http://www.oregon.gov/energy)

May 5, 2021

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Letter of Support for the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of the Subcommittee,

The Oregon Department of Energy recently adopted a new strategic plan, which includes renewed focus on our role in energy education. We provide educational resources to support policy makers, local governments, industry, energy stakeholders, and the general public in solving energy challenges and meeting Oregon's energy, economic, and climate goals. We often do this work in partnership with Oregon's institutions of higher learning. Whether it is presenting at a conference sponsored by the Oregon Institute of Technology to providing guest lectures at Portland State or working on major projects together, as we are doing with the Institute for Natural Resources, these partnerships have been vital to ODOE as we both teach and learn about energy issues in Oregon.

One such important collaborator is the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, a partnership among Oregon's higher education establishments housed at Oregon State University. We are submitting this letter today to share some of the reasons why we support OCCRI and appreciate the important work that takes place there.

Since its creation by the Oregon State Legislature in 2007, the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI) has provided invaluable services to Oregon's state government, local jurisdictions, and tribes. Through its reports, workshops, and online tools, OCCRI has increased the capacity of the state to assess and plan for the local risks of climate change. The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) and the Oregon Global Warming Commission have relied on OCCRI's work and expertise to combat climate change.

OCCRI has conducted localized research, monitoring, and analysis to detect and accurately describe anticipated climate change impacts. Over its tenure, OCCRI's team of scientists have published hundreds of high-impact peer-reviewed papers, advancing the state of the science. OCCRI's biennial state-level climate assessments have provided unique state-specific information for ODOE's climate-related work, such as the 2018 inaugural Biennial Energy Report (BER) and upcoming 2020 BER.<sup>i</sup> OCCRI's assessments and tools, such as the Climate Toolbox, have served as critical assets to inform ODOE's upcoming Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Oregon's Energy Sector, which will characterize the vulnerability of key energy

infrastructure and systems to climate impacts.<sup>i</sup> OCCRI’s climate assessment reports and 2019 climate risk workshop have also provided vital information and training for Oregon’s Interagency Climate Adaptation Framework.<sup>iii</sup>

OCCRI’s climate assessment reports have also been heavily used to inform the work of the Oregon’s Global Warming Commission.<sup>iv,v,vi,vii,viii,ix</sup> By providing and presenting decision-relevant information on both the observed and expected changes of climate change and extreme events, OCCRI has supported the Commission’s ability to provide informed recommendations to the Governor on climate action. In recent years, OCCRI scientists have presented to the Commission on ‘Climate Impacts, Then and Now’, and on other findings from their climate assessment reports.<sup>x,xi,xii</sup>

OCCRI also plays a critical role in helping Oregon move forward in addressing climate change. In 2019 and 2020, OCCRI’s scientists provided invited testimony to the Oregon State Legislature on the science of climate change to inform climate policy.<sup>xiii,xiv</sup> Beyond Oregon, OCCRI has contributed to national and international assessments of climate change, including the National Climate Assessments and International Panel on Climate Change assessment reports—two leading bodies of climate science.<sup>xv</sup> By incorporating information on our state’s and region’s observed climate trends, OCCRI has served the important role of representing Oregon’s climate experience—e.g., how climate change has manifested in Oregon—while contributing to the larger scientific body of evidence at the national and international scale.

Janine Benner  
Director  
Oregon Department of Energy

---

<sup>i</sup> Cited in ODOE 2018 Biennial Energy Report (Ch. 2, p. 53; Ch. 5, p. 25) <https://energyinfo.oregon.gov/ber>

<sup>ii</sup> Data used to inform ODOE 2020 Biennial Energy Report <https://climatetoolbox.org/>

<sup>iii</sup> Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (Dalton, M. and others). 2019. Oregon Climate Change Effects, Likelihood, and Consequences Workshop. Summary Report. Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon. [http://www.occri.net/media/1115/oregonclimatechangeworkshopsummaryreport\\_fall2019.pdf](http://www.occri.net/media/1115/oregonclimatechangeworkshopsummaryreport_fall2019.pdf)

<sup>iv</sup> 2018 OGWC Biennial Report (p. 16, p.18, p.28, p. 30):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5c2e415d0ebbe8aa6284fdef/1546535266189/2018-OGWC-Biennial-Report.pdf>

<sup>v</sup> 2018 OGWC Forest Carbon Accounting Project Report: Appendix D: Summary of Oregon Forest Ecosystem Expected Effects of Climate Change, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5c094beaaa4a99fa6ad4dcde/1544113138067/2018-OGWC-Forest-Carbon-Accounting-Report.pdf>

<sup>vi</sup> 2017 OGWC Biennial Report (p. 10, p. 14, p. 50):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/59dd4984a8b2b090a38f07a1/1507674513035/2017-OGWC-Legislative-Report.pdf>

---

vii 2011 OGWC Biennial Report (p. 6, p. 11, p. 15, p. 81):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5a04ee0453450aa7b95e9035/1510272577559/2013+Legislative+Report.pdf>

viii 2009 OGWC Roadmap to 2020 (p. 52):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5a0a0ec553450af07cfb364d/1510608618426/2011-Roadmap+to+2020+Report.pdf>

ix 2009 OGWC Biennial Report (p. 4, p. 21):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5a04f1fa24a694dfd620e5f0/1510273545054/2009+Legislative+Report.pdf>

x Presentation to the OGWC at the October 2018 meeting:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5bc4ff2215fcc0cf86486f90/1539637026835/2018-10-16-OGWC-Agenda.pdf>

xi Presentation to the OGWC at the October 2016 meeting:

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5a023bbb53450ae0a0154ed7/1510095804492/Oregon\\_GWC\\_Meeting20\\_agenda\\_0.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5a023bbb53450ae0a0154ed7/1510095804492/Oregon_GWC_Meeting20_agenda_0.pdf)

xii OCCRI is listed as the number one resource on the Commission's website:

<https://www.keeporegoncool.org/resources>

xiii Invited testimony to the Oregon State Legislature. March 2020.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2020R1/Committees/HEE/2020-03-03-13-00/Agenda>

xiv Invited testimony to the Oregon State Legislature. January 2019

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Committees/JCCR/2019-01-25-13-00/Agenda>

xv OCCRI scientists contributed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> National Climate Assessments, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental on Climate Change Assessment Report, among others:

[https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA4\\_Ch24\\_Northwest\\_Full.pdf](https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA4_Ch24_Northwest_Full.pdf);

<https://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report/regions/northwest>;

[https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/WG1AR5\\_Chapter04\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/WG1AR5_Chapter04_FINAL.pdf)