

Submitter: Jonathan Clark

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB530

Dear Senator Dembrow, Representative Marsh, Senator Golden, Representative Neron, and other sponsors,

Thank you for sponsoring this bill. Every year, we see a larger number of increasingly terrible events due to human-caused Climate Change--megafloods, megafires, unprecedented drought, heat-domes and arctic blasts, etc. Growing up in Portland, I used to be able to depend on the weather. Certain months were dependably wet; others were dependably warm. (Sometimes we would get a nice, non-rainy warm September.) These days, weather patterns are much harsher and unpredictable--last summer's heat extended into late October! We now live with a new smoke and fire season every fall.

Air conditioners, once a luxury, are almost a necessity to endure the summer months. I used to use my house's air conditioner as little as 3 days out of the year, cooling it off at night by opening the windows. Two summers ago, I had to run it for two months straight, day and night, in order to stay comfortable--I'm sure you remember it. Watering my garden used to be at most a once a day activity, but now I often need to water mornings and evenings for my garden to survive the hottest days. I've noticed a huge change in our weather patterns over the last ten years, and it's only beginning to get bad.

I think of my own sufferings as nothing compared to what this extreme and unpredictable weather must be doing to our farms and farmers. While we must prepare for the effects of the Climate Crisis, we must also fully address the causes of the crisis as well. We must quickly end all fossil fuel use before we reach 1.5 degrees Celsius of global warming, expected by 2030. Oregon's plan to transition to green electricity is already underway, but we need to do more to end our dependence on natural (fossil) gas and accelerate the electrification of our transportation sector.

I fully support this bill and I am excited about your efforts to naturally sequester carbon emissions, but I hope you will do more to preserve and protect our natural resources in the face of the Climate Crisis that we are already experiencing. I hope you will further address the causes of Climate Change along with preparing for its effects.