

Submitter: KB Mercer  
On Behalf Of: Myself and my husband David Huffman  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure: SB522

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee,

My name is KB Mercer. I am on the Steering Committee of the Metro Climate Action Team (MCAT), and I live with my husband, David Huffman, in Portland, OR.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 522, which will support continued climate progress in Oregon by strengthening our state greenhouse gas reduction goals and modernizing the Oregon Global Warming Commission. This timely legislation will bring Oregon into the 21st century by updating our long-outdated climate goals to align with the best available science. It will also support improved coordination and direction to advance state climate action by increasing representation on and clarifying the role of the Commission in overseeing state climate progress.

My husband and I look forward to supporting a forthcoming amendment that will revise the bill to reflect the recommendations of the OGWC and Oregon Department of Energy's TIGHGER report, which is based on comprehensive modeling and stakeholder engagement process.

We strongly support these updated statutory targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions of at least 45% below 1990 levels by 2030, at least 70% below 1990 levels by 2040, and at least 95% below 1990 levels by 2050.

We support SB 522 because with less than a decade remaining to cut global greenhouse gas emission in half to avoid catastrophic and irreversible climate impacts, the urgency of the climate crisis has never been more stark.

We strongly support the OGWC's recommendation for updating Oregon's statutory climate targets to be 1) consistent with the best available science, and 2) aligned with the high level of climate leadership we are seeing in other jurisdictions.

For these reasons, my husband and I strongly urge you to support SB 522 with the forthcoming amendment.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to voice our support for SB 522.

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