

Submitter: Helena Birecki

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB522

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the Committee,

Living on the coast, I'm already feeling the effects of climate change in wilder weather and especially the worrying longer and hotter summer dry spells which are making fires both spread faster and harder to fight. I strongly support SB 522, which will help the state coordinate efforts to fight climate change and improve our resilience to it. We need both emissions reductions and climate smart and equitable stewardship of our natural and working lands.

I'm very supportive of the addition of youth and environmental justice members to the commission. I also fully support the idea to make the commission the explicit coordination point for Climate Action between agencies as diverse as the Health Authority, the Housing and Community Services Department, and the Fish and Wildlife Department.

Finally, I strongly support updating statutory targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions to 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, in line with the recommendations of the OGWC and Oregon Department of Energy's TIGHGER report; updating these in line with the best available science; and encouraging a clear directive to state agencies to implement and enforce regulations consistent with these targets.

Please support SB 522 with the forthcoming amendment to strengthen emissions reductions.

Thank you for your service,  
Helena Birecki