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Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Testimony in support of SB 522 with -1 amendment

Submitted by Laura Tabor, Climate Action Director

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

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of SB 522 with -1 amendments. TNC is a non-partisan, science-based organization that works in communities across the state, manages lands and waters in varied ecosystems, and partners with ranchers, farmers, fishers, timber, and environmental interests on some of the most challenging conservation issues facing people and nature. We support SB 522, which will strengthen our state greenhouse gas reduction goals and modernize the Oregon Global Warming Commission's (OGWC) important work within the state.

Oregon needs ambitious, science-based targets that uphold Oregon's national leadership on climate and the capacity to deliver on them. SB 522 gives us the opportunity to both raise our ambition and position the OGWC to better support the implementation of critical climate programs through expanded membership and staffing.

Oregon was one of the first states to codify emissions reduction goals back in 2007. Since then, the climate policy landscape has shifted dramatically. The OGWC has done impressive work over the years analyzing the opportunities to reduce emissions and Oregon has enacted nation-leading policies targeting electricity, transportation, and other fossil fuel emissions. But there is an increased focus on implementation in the OGWC's draft final roadmap to 2035 recommendations—both for existing policies and programs and a suite of new actions informed by increased public engagement and interagency coordination.

SB 522 would also act on the OGWC's recommendation to update Oregon's climate goals to match the pace and scale of emissions reductions that science tells us are needed to address the most dangerous climate effects, and ensure we prioritize sequestration from natural and working lands in addition to reducing economy-wide emissions.

We urge your support of SB 522 by adopting the -1 amendment and moving this bill forward.