



The Climate Reality Project[®]

PORTLAND CHAPTER

Dear Co-Chairs Debrow and Pham and members of the committee,

The Portland Chapter of the Climate Reality Project strongly supports HB 5016 to provide adequate funding for the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to support its critical ongoing programs and studies which power Oregon now and outline a path to a decarbonized future.

The worsening and accelerating climate impacts across the state that threaten the lives of many Oregonians and impact the lives of all Oregonians have made it clearer than ever that we need to prioritize a resilient, affordable, and clean energy system. A resilient clean energy system is **what** we need for our future, and adequate funding for ODOE is a key part of **how** we get there.

The hardest work we do to mitigate climate impacts is done through critical ODOE programs that create pathways for Oregonians to participate in resilient clean energy benefits today. From the Energy Efficient Wildfire Rebuilding Program, the ODOE Heat Pump deployment programs, to the Community Renewable Energy Grant Program, ODOE enables Oregonians to generate local power, heat and cool their homes, and save energy costs.

We believe Oregon cannot achieve its climate goals without the continued funding of data and policy analysis from ODOE. Projects like Transformational Integrated Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction (TIGHGER) analysis have been critical tools to help the legislature and agencies prioritize feasible pathways for Oregon to meet its climate goals, create future savings and avoid costly climate crisis impacts through transitioning to healthier, more resilient, less costly renewable energy. Important work is to come – we support the ODOE’s call for a **statewide energy strategy**¹ to plan the appropriate balance of decarbonized fuels and production capacity – this would help the state avoid costly and damaging mistakes and missteps as new technologies are developed in the energy transition to come.

¹ “Recommendation: A statewide energy strategy, one that enumerates and balances the trade-offs associated with decarbonization actions – such as cost, timing, land use, health and safety, wildlife, and many others.” - 2022 ODOE Renewable Hydrogen Report, page 54
<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Data-and-Reports/Documents/2022-ODOE-Renewable-Hydrogen-Report.pdf>

This biennial round of funding is particularly important as ODOE will have a key role to play in leveraging and administering unprecedented federal investment and incentives for clean energy projects from federal investments like the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

For these reasons, we strongly urge the committee to support HB5016.

Thank you.

Nick Keenan
Renewable Energy Committee Chair
Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter

About The Climate Reality Project

The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led group affiliated with the international non-profit The Climate Reality Project founded by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every sector of society. With a global movement more than 5 million strong and a grassroots network of trained Climate Reality Leader activists, we're spreading the truth about the climate crisis and building popular support for clean energy solutions. For more information, visit the Portland Chapter at <https://climaterealitypdx.com/>, and the Climate Reality Project at www.climaterealityproject.org or on Twitter at @ClimateReality.