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On Behalf Of: Metro Climate Action Team
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure: HB3590

Testimony on HB 3590 to the
House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Levy and Levy, members of the House Climate, Energy and Environment Committee,

My name is Dr. Pat DeLaquil, and I am an energy system modeler and climate policy expert. I live in Gresham, and organize with the Metro Climate Action Team, which is a community of volunteers working to ensure Oregon is a leader in addressing the climate crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 3590, which Directs the College of Forestry at Oregon State University, to collaborate with the Department of Environmental Quality and State Forestry Department, to research development of fuel pathways for low carbon fuels derived from woody biomass residues from forestry operations.

This study bill will ensure that consistent methodologies and data are used to determine lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions and carbon intensity under the clean fuels program for low carbon fuels produced from forestry-related biomass residues, particularly wood slash piles that would otherwise be burned on lands managed by the State Forester or lands used by the College of Forestry to carry out research.

In addition to establishing the carbon intensity values for low carbon fuels derived from woody biomass residues, the study will also examine the impact converting these biomass residues to low carbon fuels has on GHG and black carbon emissions; snowpack in the Cascade Mountains; water quality and drought; and wildfire risks.

Ever-worsening climate impacts across the state have made it clearer than ever that we need to reduce emissions and protect Oregon communities on the frontline of climate impacts. Although Oregon is a leader in implementing policies to address the climate crisis, there is much more that is needed, and this bill is an important step to ensuring that clean fuels from forestry residues are beneficial and support jobs and economic development for rural Oregonians.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 3590. I thank you for your time.

Dr. Pat DeLaquil

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