



3/31/2023

To: Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Levy, Vice-Chair Levy, Members of the Committee,

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My name is Jo Brickman, and I serve as Deputy Director of VertueLab, one of three Signature Research Centers funded by Business Oregon as part of the state's innovation strategy. Our focus is on supporting and funding innovators and entrepreneurs developing technology solutions to the climate crisis. We are particularly focused on serving underrepresented business founders and on solutions that directly benefit the communities and populations most directly impacted by climate change.

Oregon has a distinct advantage over other states in that we have a 15-year head start with state-funded climate tech innovation activities as a result of the consistent support that Business Oregon and the Oregon Innovation Council have provided to VertueLab. Climate tech is distinguished from many other areas of tech innovation by the degree to which it involves the production of manufactured goods and intersects with the natural resource economy.

In the decade ahead, hundreds of billions of federal dollars will be deployed to support the development and deployment of climate technologies, thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act. Corporations, other governments, small businesses, and consumers will spend trillions more in the years ahead to both avoid and adapt to the impacts of the climate crisis. But if Oregon's producers aren't supported in gearing up effectively to meet that increased demand, our state will not reap the economic benefit of this truly unprecedented wave of investment.

It is with this inflection point in mind that VertueLab supports the Clean Technology Leadership Bill (HB 3579). This bill has the potential to make Oregon a regional leader in clean tech manufacturing while promoting good high skilled manufacturing jobs through procurement preference and the Oregon Clean Tech Opportunity Fund. It will serve to build off of the foundation laid here in Oregon over the last 6 biennia through innovation investments, and catapult our existing and nascent industry into greater job and revenue production.

I hope that you join us in supporting the Clean Tech Leadership Bill.

Sincerely,

Jo Brickman

Deputy Director, VertueLab

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