

Submitter: Harriet Cooke
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Dear Co-chairs Steiner and Sanchez, members of the Committee, we have an opportunity to leverage historic federal funding for Oregon and drive smart investments to improve public health, cut climate pollution, create family-wage jobs, and drive down costs for Oregonians across the state.

Unfortunately, key investments outlined in the People's Budget, including to increase climate resilience, are not adequately funded under the Co-Chairs Budget Framework.

Legislators must invest in climate and communities now, rather than reserving even more revenue in our already strong and healthy rainy day fund.

In particular, I recommend fully funding SB530, HB3016, the resilient building package: (SB 868, 869, 870, 871).

Additionally I implore you to fund current emergency and justice needs: SB 5511, the stable homes, homelessness prevention package; Oregon's emergency food network HB 5026; Safe community housing for farm workers HB 3555; Food for all Oregonians (SB 610); Universal representation for immigrants facing deportation SB 627; Worker Rights Enforcement and Mediation (SB 5515); Educator Mentorship and Apprenticeship Investment (SB 283); Early Childhood Infrastructure Fund (HB 3005); Child Care Access & Affordability (HB 5013); Oregon Kids' Credit (HB 3235); Living wage for state senators (SB 786); and one more climate bill, SB 522- updating the C emissions targets and changing the name to the Oregon Climate action Commission.

Thank you for understanding that investments in today will benefit our state much more than a rainy day fund for the future. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to make the most of Federal dollars. Lets use our money wisely for the benefit of all Oregonians.