

Submitter: Yusuf Arifin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Co-chairs Steiner and Sanchez, members of the Committee,
I want to add my voice to the many people you will hear asking to make sure that Oregon doesn't miss the historic opportunity of billions of dollars in federal investments for individuals, state and local government, and the private sector from the Inflation Reduction Act. A modest investment today will help families have safer and cleaner homes, help communities reduce climate pollution, and create local clean energy jobs that can't be exported and will help our state weather any coming recession.

For the past several years, Oregonians have witnessed the devastating impacts of climate change firsthand, from soaring temperatures to extreme wildfires. While these trends are ominous for young people like me, there are numerous actions we can take today to limit consequences for future generations. For example, state energy and natural resources currently account for 2% of our budget. By adequately funding existing frameworks and investing in historically underrepresented communities, we can set Oregon on a pathway to a cleaner future.

I urge the Legislature to prioritize a strategic climate budget that:

- Positions Oregon to leverage unprecedented federal funding opportunities to maximize benefits for climate, jobs and justice;
- Ensures State agencies are adequately funded and capacitated to implement existing climate programs and policies; and
- Invests in new programs to help achieve Oregon's climate goals and build healthy, resilient communities; for example Resilient, Efficient Buildings.

Oregonians and the state legislature have stepped up to do our part to reduce the impacts of climate change. Now it's time to get some help from the federal government.

Thank you for your time and consideration.