



May 3, 2023

Co-chairs Steiner and Sanchez, members of the Committee, my name is Karen Harrington, testifying on behalf of the Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter. I am also here as a mother and grandmother concerned about my family's future. The future of all our families.

**The legislature has the means to prepare for the future now!** With historic levels saved – over \$2 billion – we have the means to rise to today's challenges. By investing now in access to quality education, housing, and health care, strengthening our workforce, and leveraging federal investments in climate protection and clean energy, we can create economic opportunity for all and better prepare Oregonians to weather any coming storm.

The budget requests before you represent basic needs and services for Oregonians - housing, education, healthcare, and climate. These are critical needs to address in **this budget this year**. Of particular concern is our climate. Two considerations regarding climate: one, the threat multiplier of our changing climate and two, the opportunities if we address climate issues.

The first - Climate change, left unaddressed, will intensify all other issues we face. More erratic and intense storms will negatively impact Oregon's housing as flooding and drought conditions increase, drought will increase the number and intensity of wildfires and we have seen the devastation to homes and entire towns as a result, extreme heat will cause more deaths, particularly among our seniors, the young, and the homeless. Increased air and water pollution will impact public health and damage our natural resources.

And two - Climate change, addressed, will result in an increase in good paying, local jobs. The Building Resilience package of bills will lower Oregon's GHG emissions, increase our resilience to extreme weather and increase our buildings efficiency, lowering everyone's energy costs. The Natural Climate Solutions legislation will also lower Oregon's GHG emissions, and harden our

forests and increase our farmers' ability to successfully grow crops in this changing climate. Addressing climate change, through funding of Oregon's agencies and climate legislation this year, will open access to generous federal IRA and Infrastructure and Jobs Act funding.

Oregon can't wait, climate action can't wait!

Thank you,

Karen Harrington  
Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter  
Legislative Committee, Chair