

Submitter: Heather Ikeler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 522 and SB 530. The urgency of the need to address climate change has already been well established.

The IPCC's Sixth Assessment Synthesis Report, published March 20, 2023, makes clear that the global climate crisis demands immediate action everywhere now. But the

Oregon Global Warming Commission's (OGWC) 2023 Report to the Oregon Legislature states that Oregon failed to meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction goal for 2020. Fortunately, OGWC's Oregon Climate Action Roadmap to 2030 concludes that Oregon can still meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction goal for 2035 and even pull that in to 2030 if we provide adequate staffing and resources. Given that climate change is already harming our citizens and presents one of the greatest threats humanity faces going forward, I strongly urge you to prioritize funding for SB 522, updates to the OGWC, and SB 530, Natural Climate Solutions. Taken together, these bills will accelerate Oregon's response to the global climate crisis and position Oregon to take advantage of Federal funding for climate action.

To not pass these bills would be the very definition of being penny wise and pound foolish, especially if we calculate the future costs to the state from climate driven disasters.

Thank you for your service and for making it a priority to address the global climate crisis.