

Submitter: Thor Hinckley
On Behalf Of: Third Act Oregon
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Measure: SB1559

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, members of the Committee

I am writing to you as a member of Third Act Oregon in support of SB 1559. From our perspective the reason for our support of this bill are numerous and extremely important for all Oregonians. The science is clear: without further, immediate government action to immediately reduce emissions across all sectors, global temperatures are likely to hit and surpass a dangerous threshold—1.5 degrees celsius of warming—within the next decade. Yet, despite broad scientific consensus urging immediate climate emissions reductions—and devastating climate impacts affecting the lives and livelihoods of Oregonians across the state—Oregon has not updated its climate goals in 17 years.

SB 1559 will fix that by aligning our state greenhouse gas reduction targets to reflect the best available science consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees celsius. Specifically, SB 1559 will update Oregon's climate goals, targeting emissions reductions of at least 45% below 1990 levels by 2030, at least 70% by 2040, and at least 95% by 2050. Recognizing Oregon's ability to sequester carbon through its forests, fields, marshes, and other natural resources, the bill adds language establishing an aspiration of the state to achieve net-zero by 2050 and net-zero-minus thereafter.

Thank you for your consideration.
Thor Hinckley, Third Act Oregon