

Submitter: Brian Ettl

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB1559

Members of the Committee.

My name is Brian Ettl. I live in outer northeast Portland.

I was a seasonal park ranger at Crater Lake National Park for 25 years from 1992 to 2017. Hopefully, you have been there. It's one of the most beautiful places on the planet.

I loved my park ranger job but, sadly, I saw climate change while working there. I observed a diminishing annual snowpack and a more intense fire season and more smoke in the summertime. I became so worried about climate change that I quit my ranger job seven years ago to be a climate organizer.

Thus, I urge you to pass SB 1559 to make continued climate progress in Oregon by strengthening our long-outdated state greenhouse gas reduction goals to align with the best available science. This bill 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.

This bill recognizes Oregon's ability to sequester carbon through its forests, fields, marshes, and other natural resources, and the bill adds language establishing a goal for the state to achieve net-zero by 2050 and net-zero-minus thereafter. Unfortunately, Oregon has had climate goals in statute and has had it as a policy of the state to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions since 2007.

The good news is that near-term emissions reductions in Oregon updated with this bill will provide public health and economic co-benefits, by improving air quality and health outcomes, and by positioning Oregon to be a leader in producing clean energy technologies that the entire world is seeking in the clean energy transition. Even more, Oregon is especially well positioned to take advantage of natural climate solutions as our old growth forests hold more carbon on a per acre basis than any other forests in the world.

Just a few days ago in the news, it was widely reported that Climate change pushed Earth to first 12-month spell over 1.5 Celsius over global average temperature since pre-industrial times. This is a threshold that scientists have warned us not to cross for the damage it would do to our economy and lives. Last month, we got the news that 2023 was the planet's hottest year in global records going back to 1850 due to

human caused climate change.

With less than a decade remaining to cut global greenhouse gas emission in half to avoid catastrophic and irreversible climate impacts, the urgency of the climate crisis has never been more stark.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this.