

Submitter: rand schenck  
On Behalf Of: MCAT  
Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment  
Measure: SB1559

Senator Sollman and Committee Members,

My name is Rand Schenck. I am the Forestry and Natural Lands Lead for MCAT, a community of volunteers working to ensure that Oregon builds a healthy climate and green-energy economy for future generations.

During my working life as an organization development consultant I worked with a wide range of organizations helping them with their strategic planning processes. The key outcome for these organizations was a set of goals or objectives with metrics. These goals and metrics determined people's behaviors; they ensured accountability. Like every other effective organization in this country Oregon too needs to have up to date, ambitious climate goals to drive its behavior and to ensure it holds itself accountable.

Along with so many others I am hear to ask you to pass SB 1159, to 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. Oregon has not updated its climate goals in 17 years, which, frankly, is shameful, especially given the many harms our state is experiencing including worsening draughts and wildfires.

In addition, this bill recognizes the extraordinary capacity our state has to draw down carbon. We can use a variety of natural climate solutions to help us achieve net zero by 2050. Our coastal temperate forests hold more carbon on a per acre basis than any other forest in the world. The science is very clear that simply growing trees longer is the most effective natural climate solution. This goal will surely spur the state on to manage its millions of acres of forest in a way that will optimize carbon sequestration and storage. In addition, much can be gained by using other natural climate solutions including climate smart agriculture.

Sadly, this bill did not pass last year. We cannot let another year pass given the increasing climate chaos that we are facing. These goals will help ensure that as a state we hold ourselves accountable for ensuring we are doing our part.

Thank you,

Rand Schenck