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Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Testimony in support of SB 1559

Submitted by Laura Tabor, Climate Action Director

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Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of updating the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the state.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a non-partisan, science-based organization that works in communities across the state, manages lands and waters in varied ecosystems, and partners with ranchers, farmers, fishers, timber, and environmental interests on some of the most challenging conservation issues facing people and nature. Addressing the climate change crisis is a core component of TNC's work to create a world in which people and nature can thrive, and we believe that enacting strong policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions is a critical step in helping our communities adapt to climate change.

Oregon has been a national leader in addressing the impacts of climate change since 2007, when we were one of the first states to codify emissions reduction goals. Since then, Oregon has also enacted nation-leading policies targeting electricity, transportation, and fossil fuel emissions, yet we have not updated our climate goals to reflect the pace and scale of emissions reductions that science tells us are needed to address the most dangerous climate effects.

SB 1559 was an opportunity to strengthen our state's greenhouse gas reduction goals and would have better aligned Oregon with both regional and federal emissions reduction targets. We know this is a hard, but important conversation, yet are encouraged to see many different stakeholders come to the table to have conversations on how best to meet our clean energy goals. We look forward to future conversations and urge this committee and the state to continue Oregon's climate leadership.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments today.