

To House Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment Support for HB 3477 – Updated Climate Goals

10 March 2025

Chair Lively, Vice-chairs Gamba and Levy, and members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Pat DeLaquil. I am an energy system modeler and climate policy analyst, and I organize with MCAT (Mobilizing Climate Action Together), a community of volunteers working on advancing a healthy climate and a green economy for future generations.

I have been working in the field of clean energy development and commercialization since 1980, and I have learned that all progress is incremental and I have also seen how our knowledge of the climate crisis has grown as its consequences are already generating significant impacts around the world and here in Oregon.

When the Oregon Legislature created Oregon's climate action goals in 2007, it used the best science available at the time to establish emissions-reduction goals for 2010, 2020, and 2050, and it created the Global Warming Commission (now the Climate Action Commission) to track our progress in achieving the goals. Although the state did not meet its 2010 and 2020 targets, recent legislation and actions in the state have charted a pathway, that according to recent modelling from the Commission shows that we are now on track to meet the 2035 goal – assuming we implements all the policies currently in place.

Unfortunately, climate induced impacts are accelerating faster than expected and are already generating devastating consequences for communities throughout the state. The scientific consensus has been clear for several year now – that to avoid the worst effects of human-induced climate chaos, we must limit the rise in warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit). HB 3477 will bring Oregon in line with California and Washington, and show that we are willing to set ambitious goals and strive to do our part in addressing the climate crisis.

HB 3477 does six things:

- Clarifies that the purpose of our goals is to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Updates the 2050 goal to bring it into line with current science and global agreements.
- Removes the outdated 2010 and 2020 interim goals from statute and replaces them with new interim goals for 2030 and 2040.
- Incorporates Oregon's newly-recognized ability to naturally store and sequester carbon through its forests, fields, marshes, and other natural resources, aspiring to achieve net-zero by 2050 and net-zero-minus thereafter.
- Clarifies that these goals do not create additional regulatory authority for the state.
- Aligns with current terminology by replacing "global warming" with "climate change" throughout this section of statute.

I urge you to support HB 3477 to continue Oregon's long history of being an environmental leader.

Dr. Pat DeLaquil
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