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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3477

House Bill 3447 redefines Oregon's approach to climate action by setting clear, updated, and ambitious interim targets—because without clear goals, we cannot measure progress. And in a fight as urgent as climate change, rapid progress is imperative due to the presence of tipping points leading to irreversible change.

We're already living with the consequences of climate change. The intensity of wildfires, the scorching heat waves, the diminishing crops, the deepening water insecurity, climate refugees throughout the world—these are not future threats. They're here. And we are experiencing them now. The effects are already severe, and the longer we wait, the more difficult and costly it becomes to mitigate them.

Yet here's the thing: we've been working with climate targets that were set in 2007. Nearly two decades have passed since those targets were established, and the world—and Oregon—has changed dramatically. Our scientific understanding has advanced. The urgency has only deepened. The targets of 2007 are no longer sufficient, not by a long shot. They are, in fact, outdated in ways that could jeopardize the future of our state if left unaddressed. HB 3447 updates these targets to be in line with international standards and the U.S. National Climate Assessment, giving us a clearer, more actionable path forward.

There is a critical, and sometimes underappreciated, point about setting interim targets: they spur action. They force us to do something today, rather than putting it off for tomorrow. Reducing carbon emissions is not only the right thing to do for our planet—it's also the smart thing to do for our economy. The longer we wait to make the necessary changes, the more expensive and difficult it will be to adapt. If we begin today, we will be better positioned to take advantage of the economic opportunities that a green economy offers.

Consider this: every dollar we spend on fossil fuels is a dollar that leaves Oregon's economy. By transitioning to renewable energy sources, expanding electric vehicles, and investing in public transportation infrastructure, we can create jobs and keep money circulating within our own state. Moreover, there's a public health benefit here too. Reducing fossil fuel dependence isn't just about climate change—it's about improving the air we breathe, reducing pollution, and lowering healthcare costs over the long term.

Perhaps most importantly, creating our own renewable energy reduces our reliance

on fossil fuel plants in other states. It's about control. It's about building resilience and energy security in the face of global energy market fluctuations and environmental threats. In a world that is increasingly unpredictable, energy independence isn't just a lofty ideal—it's a critical advantage.

So here's what we have: a bill that offers a clear, actionable path to a more sustainable future. A bill that embraces the economic and health benefits of a green transition. A bill that confronts the pressing realities of climate change head-on. HB 3447 isn't just a policy proposal; it's a bare-bones imperative.