

Submitter: Brian Ettling  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3477

Chair Lively and members of the Committee. My name is Brian Ettling. I live in Portland. For 25 years from 1992 to 2017, I was a seasonal park ranger at Crater Lake National Park, one of the most beautiful places on Earth.

Sadly, I saw climate change while working at Crater Lake with a diminishing annual snowpack. Even worse, I saw more intense fire seasons and smoke in the summertime leading visitors to cancel their vacations. When they cancel their vacations, they were not staying in our hotels, eating in our restaurants, and shopping in our stores. It had a bad impact on Oregon's economy.

Since moving to Portland in 2017, I saw bad wildfire smoke in the summers making it hard to breathe. We had a very scary heat dome in 2021 with temperatures up to 116 degrees and 96 people died in Oregon. Scientists say these freak events are made worse and are triggered by climate change. They will continue to get more deadly if we don't act now to reduce this threat.

Please pass HB 3477 to declare climate change an emergency and modify our state goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to reflect what science tells us the actions we must take to reduce this threat. To paraphrase comedian Larry the Cable Guy now is the time to 'Get R done!'

I applaud Rep. Mark Gamba as a champion on this bill and as a leader on climate and environmental issues in the Oregon Legislature.

Even more, please pass the other two bills from Rep. Gamba and Rep. Helm in your committee today, HB 3681 to speed up the Electricity Transmission Permitting process. And HB 3609 to require electric companies to develop a distributed power plant program for the grid services provided by distributed energy resources.

Someday your children and grandchildren will ask you: 'What did you do as a legislator to solve climate change?'

Please pass these bills so you can tell them that you did all you could.

Thank you for taking considering my position.