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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3477

I support this bill. Setting goals that accurately reflect what we want to accomplish is an important step in galvanizing action. A lot of time has passed since these goals were originally set for the state, so I support updating them to reflect the current reality of our transition to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. I also support the switching of "climate change" for "global warming," as it better reflects the chaotic nature of the changes that our climate is undergoing and gives opponents less opportunity to nitpick these goals. I hope that we will do better going forward coming up with plans to actually achieve these goals. Unachievable goals are less than useless: they are an opportunity for opponents to call those interested in curbing climate change "out of touch"; they are an excuse to dismiss any mitigation efforts as "ineffectual." We don't need perfection; we need progress, and in order to track progress we need up-to-date goals. But we also need the will -- political, personal, and societal -- to reach them. I hope that we can use the changes proposed by this bill as motivation to devise concrete plans and actions -- both in the legislature and as individual Oregon citizens -- to start curving the lines towards net zero.