

My name is Paulette Bierzychudek and I am an Oregon resident from House district 41. I have a doctorate in ecology and have studied and taught climate science for decades. I write to offer my strong support for HB 3477, updating Oregon's climate goals.

The climate crisis is real and has been documented and confirmed by numerous scientific studies. Its effects are being felt on a daily basis in Oregon and throughout the world. We now understand that enriched greenhouse gases cause far more climatic effects than simply warming – they also cause more extreme weather events like the intensified droughts, heat “domes,” and hurricanes we have experienced in recent years. The climate crisis threatens the health and welfare of all Oregonians and of the natural world on which our survival depends. As our current federal government regards this crisis as a “hoax,” it becomes ever more urgent for individual states to take independent action. While Oregon alone can only address a part of the problem, doing nothing does not address the problem at all. This is an opportunity for us to join Washington and California in leading the way for the rest of the country.

Thank you for your support of this important bill.

Paulette Bierzychudek
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