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TESTIMONY

House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

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Oregon Fuels Association Opposes HB 3477

The Oregon Fuels Association (OFA) is the voice of Oregon's locally-owned fuel stations, fuel distributors and heating oil providers. We transport fuels that put cars and trucks on the road, keep homes warm, and Oregon's economy moving. OFA members are at the forefront of environmental stewardship, making investments toward a cleaner, greener economy by investing in blending technologies designed to promote the use of lower carbon and renewable fuels, all while ensuring freight and families can get to their destinations.

Oregon has adopted numerous greenhouse gas reduction regulations in the transportation sector. OFA has worked closely with state policymakers to identify areas of opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout our economy. From the Clean Fuels Program to the recently adopted Climate Protection Program, the state is already requiring a decline in emissions from Oregon's transportation sector.

In 2007, the Oregon Legislature passed legislation that created aspirational goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Since then, even without legislative action, Oregon's administrative agencies have adopted and modified regulations to meet or go beyond those aspirational goals. Based on our recent experience, these goals are no longer simply aspirational targets but have become an arbitrary basis for regulations without thoughtful engagement from the legislative branch.

Despite the lack of engagement on existing programs, HB 3477 proposes to change the originally adopted Greenhouse Gas Emissions goals from 75% below 1990 levels to 95% below 1990 levels by 2050. In today's environment, aspirational goals are unnecessary because we have regulations that are not aspirational but instead mandatory. Moreover, and maybe more importantly, the bill fails to improve legislative accountability on existing programs and whether existing programs meet or exceed previously adopted goals. Rather than pass bills with aspirational goals, the legislature should focus on reviewing existing programs and if necessary make adjustments to those programs; not pass arbitrary goals without any connection to existing or future regulatory programs.

Please join us in opposing HB 3477.