

Submitter: John Christensen

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3477

My name is John Christensen, and I'm a small forest owner in East Multnomah County. I strongly support HB 3477. Oregon's climate targets to control greenhouse gases need to be updated. Since those original targets were set, climate change has accelerated, its devastating effects are being experienced more frequently by Oregonians, and our understanding of the enormous potential of Oregon's forests and wetlands to store carbon has grown.

In the Eagle Creek fire a few years ago, we—along with many neighbors—had to evacuate our land with the uncertainty of whether there would be anything left when we returned. Many other Oregonians have lost their homes and land due to the increasing intensity and frequency of wildfires, which are climate driven.

In the last few years, realizing the potential of our own forested land to be a natural climate solution, we have enrolled it in a carbon sequestration contract. This can be done at scale with Oregon forests to help us meet new climate targets, which are to reduce GHGs by 45%, 70% and 95% in 2030, 2040, and 2050, respectively.

The time for urgent action is now!