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Follow-up testimony in support of H3477

Chair Lively and Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

My name is Alan Journet. Prior to relocating to Oregon, I spent decades teaching ecology, conservation biology and environmental science at Southeast Missouri State University. I testify today on behalf of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now which I co-founded and where I serve as cofacilitator in support of HB3477. As I have noted previously, SOCAN is an organization of some 2,000 Southern Oregonians who are concerned about the climate crisis and seek state action to address it. I offer these comments following the Public Hearing where I was hoping to testify orally.

Since our establishment in 2012, SOCAN has consistently collaborated with climate activists across the state and climate-conscious legislators as we have promoted comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions reduction legislation. As we heard, HB3543 passed in 2007, several years before SOCAN was organized. Though it represented a leading national effort at the time in seeking 75% emissions reduction for the state compared to 1990 levels by 2050, it was clearly unsuccessful. Since it involved a purely voluntary effort, this is not surprising. Governor Brown's 2020 Executive Order 20-04 increased the target to 80% below 1990 levels.

Since then, it has become clear that net zero should be our goal by 2050. Meanwhile, programs have been proposed that collectively would achieve 95% reductions in Oregon but the state's official goal has never been adjusted legislatively to identify the kind of emissions reductions we should achieve if we are to contribute our fair share to the global collective effort to divert our currently suicidal global greenhouse gas emissions trajectory.

I direct those who haven't seen the science to the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scientific assessments (IPCC 2023). I direct those wishing to see science relating specifically to Oregon to the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute's latest assessment report (OCCRI 2025).

To those who argue Oregon's greenhouse gas contribution is so small that we shouldn't be expected to meet the targets contained in HB3477, I respond: such a position defies science, is

offensive, and frankly, is morally bankrupt. The climate crisis is so severe and so immediate that we must all, individually and collectively, undertake the maximum reductions we can. Failing to do so will consign future generations to a planet that cannot support life as we know it.

To those who question the cost of achieving these goals I suggest the cost of inaction is what we should consider. If we collectively don't address the climate crisis, our natural ecosystems, our agriculture, forestry and fisheries will likely be severely compromised as soon as the end of this century. This would represent an incalculable cost. HB3477 represents Oregon's commitment to doing its share toward addressing the global climate crisis. If we don't do our share, we have no credibility or moral authority to ask others to do theirs.

What somewhat confuses us is that regrettably, the climate crisis is increasing the wildfire threat to our forests since it enhances the climatic conditions of drying soils and vegetation during our dry summers that are historically typical of Mediterranean winter wet/summer dry climates. The consequence of the climate trend is that wildfires are now more likely to spread and become megafires than has been the case over the last century. Ongoing climate change poses a greater threat to the timber industry and the pulp and paper industry than would HB3477.

We find hypocritical the claim of legislators and industry representatives that they accept climate science but reject legislation that would contribute to Oregon addressing the root cause of the global warming that is stimulating climate change. If we accept climate science and have legislative or industrial capacity to address it, our responsibility is to do so.

For these reasons Southern Oregon Climate Action Now applauds Rep Gamba for introducing legislation that reflects scientific reality. We urge the committee to schedule a Work Session and approve it without delay. Incidentally, we also urge passage of HB3609 and HB3681.

As a note, I was also very disappointed that Chair Lively gave those testifying 3 minutes, then called all the industry folks first who were obviously testifying against the bill. Of course, time then ran out, so many of us with supporting remote testimony didn't have the opportunity to speak.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan R.P. Journet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan R.P. Journet Ph.D.

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## Sources Cited

IPCC 2023 AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/>

OCCRI 2025 Seventh Oregon Climate Assessment, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute. <https://oregonstate.app.box.com/s/ziqc1kisxkup45147phjp526kheugqnb>