

Submitter: Martin Desmond
On Behalf Of: Citizens for a Better Lincoln County
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3477

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Members of the Committee,

I urge you to support HB 3477, a bill to update Oregon's outdated greenhouse gas reduction goals to align with the best available science and our peer states.

The state has had climate goals in statute and has had it as a policy of the state to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions since 2007. Since that time, the urgency of the climate crisis has become increasingly stark.

Oregonians are already experiencing dangerous climate and health impacts as a result of fossil fuel use, with communities of color, low-income households, and rural communities bearing a disproportionate burden. Oregon State University's Climate Change Research Institute warns that climate change is already causing major economic disruptions across industries and without immediate action, these costs will rise.

Reducing climate reductions will provide public health and economic co-benefits, by improving air quality and health outcomes, and by positioning Oregon to be a leader in producing clean energy technologies that the entire world is seeking in the clean energy transition.

The science is clear: without further, immediate government action to immediately reduce emissions across all sectors, global temperatures are likely to hit and surpass a dangerous threshold—1.5 degrees celsius of warming—within the next decade. Yet, despite broad scientific consensus urging immediate climate emissions reductions—and devastating climate impacts affecting the lives and livelihoods of Oregonians across the state—Oregon has not updated its climate goals in 18 years.

HB 3477 will fix that by aligning our state greenhouse gas reduction targets to reflect the best available science consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees celsius. Specifically, HB 3477 will update Oregon's climate goals, targeting emissions reductions of at least 45% below 1990 levels by 2030, at least 70% by 2040, and at least 95% by 2050. Recognizing Oregon's ability to sequester carbon through its forests, fields, marshes, and other natural resources, the bill adds language establishing a goal for the state to achieve net-zero by 2050 and net-zero-minus thereafter.

The updated state climate goals proposed HB 3477 reflect the recommendations of the Oregon

Climate Action Commission and Oregon Department of Energy's 2023 TIGHGER report. This report is based on comprehensive modeling and a multiyear stakeholder engagement process. HB 3477's updated climate targets will better align us with the best available science neighboring West Coast jurisdictions.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to support HB 3477.