

Submitter: Gary Reiness

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3477

Dear House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment:

I write in support of HB 3477 to set new goals for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Oregon. We've already seen the effects of global warming on Oregon in the frequency and magnitude of wildfires, in reduced snowpack, in agricultural impacts. It would be foolhardy not to maintain and even accelerate our efforts to reduce GHG emissions as expeditiously as possible.

I am a retired professor of biology at Lewis & Clark College, and I am conversant with the scientific literature and consensus of climate scientists. It is certain that the climate is changing, average temperatures are increasing globally, and the primary driver of that change is emission of greenhouse gases from human activities. The situation will only deteriorate unless we redouble our efforts to reduce those emissions, as this bill seeks to do.

I know that some will claim that Oregon is a small contributor to global GHG emissions, so our efforts are of little consequence. I recall the saying that no raindrop believes it is responsible for the flood, but it is of course the cumulative number that does cause the flood. We will not reduce global GHG levels and mitigate climate change unless each of us—individually and collectively—takes every possible step to reduce our own contributions. This bill moves Oregon in the right direction and for that reason I support it wholeheartedly.

Sincerely,

Gary Reiness