

TO: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment  
RE: Support of HB 3477  
DATE: March 11th, 2025

Dear Chair Representative John Lively and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment,

My name is Dulasi Tennakoon, a senior undergraduate majoring in Politics, Policy, Law and Ethics in Willamette University, and I am writing to express my strong **support** for House Bill 3477. As an undergraduate student residing in Oregon, I am deeply concerned about the climate crisis and the urgency with which we must act to mitigate its most devastating consequences.

**Oregon has not updated its climate goals in 18 years**, despite overwhelming scientific consensus on the need for immediate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. In that time, the consequences of climate change have become increasingly apparent. Wildfires, extreme heat events, and worsening air quality have become more frequent, **disproportionately impacting communities of color, like myself**, low-income households, and rural communities.

HB 3477 provides a critical update to our state's greenhouse gas reduction targets, **aiming for at least a 45% reduction below 1990 levels by 2030, 70% by 2040, and 95% by 2050**. Additionally, it sets an aspirational **goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 and net-zero-minus thereafter**, recognizing Oregon's capacity for carbon sequestration through its forests, wetlands, and other natural resources. These targets are consistent with the best available science and align Oregon's climate policies with those of neighboring West Coast states.

**As a student studying policy and governance, I recognize that strong, science-based policy decisions are essential to safeguarding our future.** By updating Oregon's emissions targets, HB 3477 ensures we are measuring progress accurately and addressing climate pollution across multiple sectors. Beyond environmental benefits, reducing emissions will **generate economic and public health co-benefits**. Oregon has the potential to be a leader in clean energy innovation, **fostering economic growth and job creation in the renewable energy sector**. Additionally, lower emissions **will improve air quality and public health outcomes**, reducing healthcare costs and protecting vulnerable populations from pollution-related illnesses.

The climate crisis is not a distant threat, **it is happening now**, and it is affecting our communities in real and tangible ways. **As a young person preparing to enter the workforce and build my future in Oregon, I want to see our state take bold, science-driven action to protect our environment and economy.**

For these reasons, **I strongly urge you to support HB 3477**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dulasi Tennakoon  
Student, Oregon Resident