



Service Employees
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To: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

From: Mike Powers, SEIU Local 503

RE: Support for HB 3477

Date: March 11, 2025

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

My name is Mike Powers and I am the Immediate Past President and a Policy Strategist with our Union, SEIU Local 503. We represent over 72,000 Oregonians who serve in every county in the state. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of HB 3477.

In a summary of the Oregon Climate Assessment released in January 2025, Erica Fleishman, Director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, emphasized that the assessment "underscores that understanding, mitigating, and preparing for climate change is a priority for the state of Oregon."¹ Our union's leadership fully agrees with this priority, as demonstrated by a 2022 General Council resolution committing our members to engage in climate-related legislative efforts. We are focused on minimizing the harmful impacts and costs of climate change while seizing the opportunities that come with the transition to clean energy alternatives.

Since the creation of the Oregon Climate Action Commission (formerly the Global Warming Commission) in 2007, climate science has advanced, revealing that the impacts of climate change are more severe and immediate than we previously understood. The latest Oregon Climate Assessment provides in-depth, peer-reviewed scientific data to support this.²

In response to this new information, HB 3477 proposes updated goals to reduce our state's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The modeling shows that meeting these goals would not only help the environment but also bring significant economic and public health benefits, including an estimated \$120 billion in cumulative net benefits and over 350,000 new jobs in Oregon by 2050.

¹ [New Oregon climate assessment documents continued warming and signs of adaptation | Newsroom | Oregon State University](#). Accessed on 3/11/25.

² [Oregon Climate Assessments – Oregon Climate Change Research Institute](#)



Some have argued that even if Oregon meets its GHG reduction goals, the state's efforts will have minimal impact on national and global climate trends. While the math behind this argument may be accurate, it overlooks the broader significance of Oregon's leadership. Oregon has always taken on tough challenges and emerged as a leader. As we face this climate challenge, we will learn from our successes and setbacks, and continue to improve and benefit from our investments. Our leadership will inspire and help guide other states and nations toward a cleaner, more sustainable energy future that benefits Oregon families and communities.

While Oregon cannot tackle this challenge alone, we can lead by example. It's essential that we come together as Oregonians. We are capable of tackling multiple challenges simultaneously, just as we've done before.

With the full support of our membership, I urge this committee to lean in, lead, and support HB 3477, along with the many other necessary efforts to build resilience and combat the impacts of climate change until we succeed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and we appreciate your consideration.