



Please pass HB 3477!

March 12, 2025

Dear members of the Oregon House Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment,

I am writing to urge you to support and pass HB 3477, a critical bill that will update and strengthen Oregon's climate action goals.

In 2007, the Oregon Legislature set emissions-reduction goals; they represented a political compromise, but one that at least was based on the best available science at the time.

Since then, climate science has advanced significantly, and Oregon has made meaningful progress, through legislation, policy changes, and action.

However, despite this progress, **we did not meet our 2010 and 2020 targets.**

Now, according to recent modeling from the Climate Action Commission, we are finally on track to meet the 2035 goal, **assuming all current policies are fully implemented** (*a big assumption*).

Unfortunately, the climate crisis is accelerating faster than anticipated, causing increasingly severe impacts across Oregon. From devastating wildfires and extreme heat waves, to declining crop yields, and worsening water insecurity, our communities are already experiencing the consequences of a changing climate.

The scientific consensus is clear: to avoid the most catastrophic effects of human-induced climate change, we must limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. HB 3477 aligns Oregon with California and Washington, demonstrating our commitment to ambitious, science-based action.

HB 3477 is essential because it:

- Clarifies that Oregon's climate goals are designed to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Updates the 2050 emissions-reduction goal to reflect the latest science and global agreements.
- Removes outdated 2010 and 2020 interim goals, and replaces them with new targets for 2030 and 2040.
- Recognizes Oregon's natural ability to store and sequester carbon through forests, wetlands, and other ecosystems, aspiring to reach net-zero by 2050, and net-negative emissions beyond.
- Confirms that these goals do not impose new regulatory authority on the state.
- Modernizes statutory language by replacing "global warming" with "climate change."

Setting strong interim targets is essential to driving early action.

Reducing emissions now will save Oregon money in the long run, while also reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

This transition benefits our economy by keeping energy dollars in the state, supporting green jobs, and fostering local clean energy solutions.

Additionally, decreasing fossil fuel use will improve air quality and public health, while increasing energy resilience and security.

Oregon has the opportunity to lead on climate action and to protect the well-being of our residents, economy, and ecosystems.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 3477, and help ensure that our state meets its climate commitments.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Garlynn Woodsong
garlynn@placeinitiative.org
Executive Director
PLACE Initiative
503.936.9873
placeinitiative.org