

March 11, 2025

House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

HB 3477 - SUPPORT

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

My name is Ella Allen, I am a student at Willamette University, and I urge you to support HB 3477, a bill to update Oregon's outdated greenhouse gas reduction goals to align with the best available science and our peer states.

Climate change is fast approaching, and we are already feeling the negative effects in the form of increased natural disasters. As a young person, fear has been instilled in me since a young age regarding the degradation of our planet. Since learning about climate change in third grade to witnessing the destruction of our natural resources, every day I am increasingly fearful for the future that is ahead of us. It's a scary thing to grow up in a world on fire and I have felt powerless and afraid since I could name the feelings.

My father worked as a wildland firefighter all throughout my childhood until his retirement last year. As I got older, I became much more aware of the increasing frequency and danger that he and his crew faced on each job, as the intensity of fires grew throughout the country and the world. In 2020, he was sent out to Australia to help with the fires there. As I heard his stories of destruction and fear, I felt for those experiencing these events. This cycle cannot continue. We must find a way to keep these events from increasing further.

Goals like this are incredibly important. These limits will keep Oregon on track and ensure a safe future where children do not have to grow up in fear of impending doom. Children will not have to wish for the past when forests dominated the landscape, and each breath wasn't filled with invisible toxins. These suggested targets align with the international standards of the U.S. National Climate Assessment and the current targets are very out of date. It is important that we update the standards and continue to move towards a safe future.

These reductions will benefit all Oregonians, economically and physically. 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 will rise. Thus, it will be more economically beneficial to set these limits and work towards reduction now.

We cannot measure our success without setting adequate goals. Thus, I urge you to offer your support to HB3477.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ella Allen