

Submitter: Joseph Stenger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3477

Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and B. Levy, and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 3477. I am a retired family physician. Community health has been a major focus of my career. The increasingly unstable and dangerous climate is threatening the health of Oregonians. This bill will modernize our goals for addressing this threat.

Global physical patterns are changing rapidly. HB 3477 will formalize a laudable intent to keep warming to less than 1.5C, however this level of warming has already been surpassed, with each recent year setting new records. This bill will update the state's goals in line with current scientific and global agreements. Setting a goal of 45% reduction of emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 is consistent with the recommendations of the Oregon Climate Action Commission in the Roadmap to 2030 and its TIGHGER analysis. OCAC's work shows that achieving this goal will provide significant economic and public health benefits while creating large numbers of new jobs.

HB 3477's goal to achieve net-zero by 2050 and net-negative thereafter highlights the necessity of carbon removal by optimizing the functioning of Oregon's natural and agricultural land. However, this goal also implies the development of industrial-scale carbon sequestration, undoubtedly a necessary component of our future environmental protection.

Steering a course to meet the goals of HB 3477 will encourage the development of Oregon's potential riches of clean energy. This bill will hasten progress toward Oregon's modernization of its electrical transmission grid and progress toward Oregon becoming a net exporter of energy.

I strongly urge that you vote in favor of this crucial measure and support its passage to become law.

Thank you for your work on behalf of all of us.

Joseph Stenger MD