

Date: March 11, 2025

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment

Subject: **HB 3477 Support**

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

My name is Brend Garcia Mejía, and I have been a resident of Salem, Oregon, for many years. I am also currently a student at Willamette University. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3477, which aims to update Oregon's outdated greenhouse gas reduction goals in line with the most current science.

The consequences of rising emissions are rapidly approaching, and at present, Oregon has not been proactive enough in addressing this issue. The passage of HB 3477 will provide the opportunity to reduce emissions and lessen global warming using reliable, up-to-date scientific knowledge. The bill sets clear climate goals in ten-year increments, ensuring that progress is made and that the focus remains on long-term action.

Failure to address [global warming] climate change extends beyond the weather-related impacts; it also affects our economy, public health, and natural resources and environment of Oregon. While we rely on water for energy production, we must recognize that this practice cannot continue without addressing the environmental change that is to come, as water resources will be significantly impacted.

We are already experiencing the effects of emissions and global warming. As someone who has lived here for many years and has experienced all four seasons, I have observed a noticeable imbalance in our weather patterns, with extreme weather becoming more frequent. The rise in temperatures has made conditions uncomfortable, especially for outdoor workers, including farmworkers and blue-collar employees. It is unsafe for workers to remain outside for extended periods, and companies also face challenges as performance declines due to these conditions.

Passing HB 3477 would be a crucial step toward creating the framework needed to assess emissions and work toward the established climate goals. By addressing these issues proactively and in a timely manner, we can make informed decisions rather than waiting for the need to take action to become urgent and unclear. Oregon is already a leader in climate and energy discussions, and continuing to step up in these areas will encourage other states to follow Oregon's example.

Sincerely,
Brenda Garcia Mejía
Salem, Oregon
Willamette University