

March 11, 2025

To: House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment

Subject: Support HB 3477

Dear Chair Lively and Members of the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee,

My name is Catherine Thomasson, MD and I am speaking on behalf of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility. I am the former Executive Director of Physicians for Social Responsibility and have worked on climate issues for decades. We are all impacted by climate-induced wildfire and the reduction in water resources. I am speaking in support of HB 3477.

**We know that addressing infrastructure projects with planning and targets is essential for good governance. Doing these projects without delay keeps the costs as low as possible.**

The same is true for addressing climate change.

The purpose of interim targets is to spur action sooner rather than later. Indeed, reducing carbon emissions now is cheaper for Oregon than waiting.

We don't have any oil or gas wells. Much of our non-hydropower energy comes from out of state. Reducing fossil fuel dependency helps spend and keep more money in our state economy. Green local energy jobs for installation and repair, electric vehicle charging keep our economy humming!

There are other benefits too. Getting off gas and oil, especially diesel, helps reduce ambient air pollution.

It's time to come up with national and international targets. These new targets incorporate Oregon's ability to naturally store and sequester carbon through its forests, fields, marshes, and other natural resources, aspiring to achieve net-zero by 2050 and net-zero-minus thereafter. These mechanisms also help us in protecting our water quality and quantity.



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Lastly, the bill states explicitly that it would not authorize any additional regulatory action by an agency of the executive branch, so the purpose is in measuring and benchmarking appropriate targets.

Thank you for careful consideration of the benefits of this bill for Oregon.

Sincerely,

Catherine Thomasson, MD

*Healthy Climate Action Team Member at Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility*



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