

Submitter: Nora Lehmann

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3477

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

Families for Climate is a grassroots, volunteer-powered organization working to mobilize parents, kids and families for climate justice and a livable future for all. Our membership consists of almost one thousand parents, caregivers and teachers across Oregon. We are strongly in support of updating Oregon's outdated greenhouse gas reduction goals to align with the best available science and our peer states, and urge you to support HB 3477.

The urgency to reduce climate pollution cannot be overstated; Oregonians are already confronting the dangers of climate change, with rising temperatures, severe weather events, and devastating wildfires and unhealthy smoke. It is crucial that our state does everything possible to ward off the devastating climate impacts that are already affecting the lives and livelihoods of Oregonians across the state.

As parents, we are tasked with both explaining the science, history, and frightening consequences of global warming to our children, and also, more painfully, explaining why the grown-ups are not solving the problem with the urgency it demands. There are no reassuring words to explain the fact that Oregon has not updated its climate goals in 18 years, during which time climate science has continued to evolve in understanding and sophistication, and the climate on which our lives depend continues to devolve before our eyes.

HB 3477 will fix that by aligning our state greenhouse gas reduction targets to reflect the best available science consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees celsius. Specifically, HB 3477 will update Oregon's climate goals, targeting emissions reductions of at least 45% below 1990 levels by 2030, at least 70% by 2040, and at least 95% by 2050. Recognizing Oregon's ability to sequester carbon through its forests, fields, marshes, and other natural resources, the bill adds language establishing a goal for the state to achieve net-zero by 2050 and net-zero-minus thereafter.

The updated state climate goals proposed HB 3477 reflect the recommendations of the Oregon

Climate Action Commission and Oregon Department of Energy's 2023 TIGHGER report. This report is based on comprehensive modeling and a multiyear stakeholder engagement process. HB 3477's updated climate targets will better align us with the

best available science neighboring West Coast jurisdictions.

For these reasons, Families for Climate urges the committee to prioritize updating Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and to support HB 3477.

It is time for Oregon to lead by example and set science-based targets that will drive meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and protect a safer future for our children and grandchildren. Thank you.