



350PDX
3625 N. Mississippi Avenue
Portland, OR 97227
350pdx.org

Re: Support HB 3477, Climate Target Modernization

February 13, 2024

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-chairs Gamba and Bobby Levi, and members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

We express our strong support for HB 3477, on Climate Target Modernization on behalf of 350PDX, a grassroots environmental nonprofit with thousands of members in the Portland area, advocating for climate justice.

HB 3477 creates new emissions reduction targets for 2030 and beyond that would help bring Oregon's goals closer in line with the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommendations of keeping planetary warming below 1.5°C. Limiting warming to this level is necessary in order to keep our social and ecological systems functional and healthy for humans and other species to continue to thrive.

Scientific reports are released regularly that show the importance of **immediate action** to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other climate impacts. Although scientists agree that the upper limit of warming that our planet can handle while staying in this climate system is 1.5°C, **the planet has already averaged at least 1.5°C above pre-industrial temperatures for the past year and a half**. For the past ten years, each year was one of the ten warmest years on record.¹ Climate change is already occurring and impacting our planet; **ignoring it and not setting new emissions reduction goals will not make the problem go away** — it will exacerbate the problems.

We have already put more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than the planet has yet responded to, and we continue to do so in Oregon with emissions today still being 5% above 1990 levels.² Even if we stop emitting today, we have not experienced all the warming that is in store. We need to also **enact natural climate solutions** to help replace these emissions back into the soil and into their proper cycles so we can avoid these kinds of catastrophic events. **Waiting until 2050 is much too late to get to net zero, but placing these stronger targets is a good start**. We are at 1.5°C of warming, with more already locked into place without large mitigation projects. This sets the stage for erratic weather, which places global markets at great risk and in turn Oregonians at great risk. Make no mistake,

¹ January 10, 2025, [European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service](#)

² DEQ, [Oregon Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data](#)



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these impacts will be felt by us all and especially those in traditionally disadvantaged communities including communities of color and low-income communities.

Although HB 3477 does not create additional regulatory authority, it is hoped that our various agencies and government bodies can work together to help meet or exceed these reduction goals. Our state policies need to take into account the realities of how our ecological systems will respond to our current and future emissions. Our economy and society cannot continue to thrive operating as if everything were fine. Even though we are a small state, it's not just about our impact on the world, but rather us looking and thinking about the future of Oregon and the world around us and doing our part. We need to be serious about reducing our emissions now to preserve this beautiful state we call home.

We strongly urge you to consider HB 3477 and pass it this session: the climate is not partisan, and the physical and ecological repercussions of human actions are going to be increasingly felt here in our home. We need to all work together to ensure this one livable planet can continue to comfortably support human life into the future.

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Building the climate justice movement.