



# The Climate Reality Project<sup>®</sup>

## PORTLAND CHAPTER

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

Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter is an organization committed to just solutions for the climate crisis. There is no solution to the climate crisis without rapid and real emissions reductions. We fully support the updated goals of HB 3477, and we request an amendment that better defines “emissions accounting best practices” to include a life-cycle assessment that includes all foreseeable indirect land use change as well as indirect emissions.

An update of Oregon’s climate goals is long overdue. Climate science has developed significantly since our state’s climate goals were established in 2007. The impacts of climate change have accelerated faster than originally expected, and Oregon communities are already experiencing damaging effects from heat domes, wildfires, smoky air, and water insecurity. We have passed the dates of the interim goals (2010 and 2020) set in 2007 and need new interim goals to assess our progress toward 2050 goals.

HB 3477 sets new goals that are aligned with international standards and the US National Climate Assessment and that bring our state in line with Washington and California. It establishes interim goals for 2030 and 2040 which will encourage action to be taken sooner (when action is cheaper and easier) rather than later and will help ensure that our state is on track for meeting the 2050 goal.

Goal setting is necessary to measure success, and it must be coupled with full lifecycle accounting of indirect land use change and indirect emissions to make sure that solutions which look good on paper have the intended impact in the real world. Oregon’s DEQ currently underestimates both of these in its renewable diesel and factory farm gas (dairy and swine manure biomethane) carbon intensity assessments. Here’s why that matters:

- Renewable diesel (or other biofuels) emissions are “low” premised on the idea that the crop used to provide the fuel will grow back, reabsorbing that CO<sub>2</sub>. However, increasing demand for biofuels has led to food crops being diverted to fuel and rainforests being slashed and burned to replace those food crops.<sup>1</sup> That is a disaster for the planet.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://theicct.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/impact-renewable-diesel-us-jan22.pdf>

- Factory farm gas emissions are extremely low premised on the idea that their manure lagoons would exist at the same scale with or without the biogas demand. Instead, a slew of recent reports have confirmed “that it creates [perverse incentives](#) to [add animals](#) to produce more manure, creating more waste and pollution.”<sup>2</sup> Not only is this bad for local pollution and water, it significantly increases emissions into our atmosphere. Over 90% of methane emissions from cattle come from burps, not manure.<sup>3</sup>

Please consider an amendment that ensures that Oregon’s emissions accounting matches real-world effects and then vote YES on HB 3477.

Sincerely,

Amanda Duncan and Helena Birecki  
Co-Chairs of the Legislative Committee  
Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

About The Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter

The Climate Reality Project (CRP) Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led chapter of The Climate Reality Project, an international nonprofit of 5 million members led by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze global solutions to the climate crisis. Our legislative committee bases its advocacy on CRP's 5 pillars: a just transition to clean energy, zero carbon transportation, climate justice and public health, green communities, and a fair, representative democracy. [climaterealitypdx.com/](http://climaterealitypdx.com/), [www.climaterealityproject.org](http://www.climaterealityproject.org)

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.iatp.org/bad-climate-policy-factory-farms>

<sup>3</sup>

<https://thebreakthrough.org/issues/food-agriculture-environment/livestock-dont-contribute-14-5-of-global-greenhouse-gas-emissions>