

# Testimony to the Joint Ways & Means Committee

## Gresham, OR

March 22, 2025

Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, and members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Pat DeLaquil. I am an energy system modeler and climate policy analyst, and I organize with **MCAT** (Mobilizing Climate Action Together), a community of volunteers working on advancing a healthy climate and a green economy for future generations.

I have a PhD in Nuclear Engineering, but I have worked since 1980 on the development and commercialization of solar, wind and other clean energy resources. At that time global warming induced climate change seem very far in the future, but we are already experiencing much greater impacts far sooner than was ever anticipated even 20 years ago. Furthermore, evidence indicates that we are approaching or have passed a variety of different tipping points.

Oregon is currently a leader among states that have implemented strong climate action policies. In the face of federal backtracking, we need our legislature to show steady and forward-looking leadership. In particular, we need a state budget that protects our progress and invests in our future.

Many of the programs I will mention below support community resilience against upcoming climate impacts. Every Oregonian deserves to breathe clean air, drink safe water, and heat and cool our homes without facing outrageous utility bills. As we tackle Oregon's housing crisis, we must ensure that our homes will keep us safe from extreme weather and be affordable to heat and cool.

Please support the following programs. They are a relatively small investment relative to the benefits they will provide.

- **The Rental Home Heat Pump and Community Heat Pump Deployment Programs** will help lower utility bills and help keep people safe, housed, and secure in their communities.
- **One Stop Shop 2.0** will help families get direct assistance on available incentives and programs to make their home projects more affordable.
- **Climate Resilience and Support for Rural Communities** will help ensure all our communities are prepared for extreme weather events.
- **Community Resilience Hubs** and networks across the state to coordinate and provide access to resources and services during disasters.
- **Natural & Working Lands Fund** will help Oregon forest owners, farmers, and ranchers to implement climate-smart land management practices.
- **Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate's Charge Ahead Program** will lower the upfront costs for Oregonians to purchase used electric vehicles, benefitting lower income residents.

Please prioritize funding that enables our state energy and natural resource agencies to advance Oregon's climate goals, ensuring healthy, resilient communities, and supporting clean energy job growth across Oregon.

Thank you for listening.

Dr. Pat DeLaquil  
Gresham, OR

