

Submitter: Ken Wilkins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Natural Resources

Measure, Appointment or SB5520
Topic:

Co-chairs Frederick and Levy and committee members:

I am a resident of Bend, a professor emeritus of biology who has taught and researched in ecology and environmental biology, and a board member of 350Deschutes. Thank you for opportunity to offer written testimony in SUPPORT for Senate Bill 5520, a bill to provide biennial funding for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

DEQ is Oregon's chief agency responsible for regulating and protecting communities from greenhouse gas emissions. As such, full funding for DEQ is essential for ensuring that Oregon achieves its climate goals, including implementation of cornerstone programs like the Climate Protection Program, Clean Fuels Program, Clean Truck Rules, and electric vehicle rebate programs.

With the current federal administration taking a chain saw to essential regulations and personnel in the EPA and supporting agencies charged with protecting our environment, it is clear that we Oregonians cannot depend on partnership and resources from the federal government. So, it is now more important than ever for our state agencies, especially DEQ, to be strongly and fully funded.

Please support DEQ's vital work in advancing Oregon's climate goals, ensuring healthy, resilient communities, and supporting clean energy job growth across Oregon by supporting a strong agency budget and voting YES on SB 5520.

Thank you for passing legislation that will allow a liveable planet for our children and future generations.