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Cofacilitator
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
April 14th 2025

Testimony regarding SB5520

Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy and members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means, Natural Resources subcommittee:

As I frequently have noted in testimony before House and Senate Committees, I testify again as cofacilitator of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN), the oldest grassroots climate organization in the Rogue Valley representing some 2,000 Southern Oregonians. We are concerned about the climate crisis and seek federal, state and local action to address it. We are rural and coastal Southern Oregonians who live on the frontlines of the warming, reducing snowpack, heatwaves, drought, rising sea level and the increasing wildfire risk that these trends conspire to impose on us. Because of our concern, we pay close attention to efforts nationally, statewide, and locally that impact our efforts to address the climate crisis. As our logo above indicates, the focus of SOCAN is to promote action through science.

Having reflected on the activities of DEQ, I would like to add the following arguments in support of funding DEQ as fully as possible:

- As a recent buyer of a Battery Electric Vehicle who recognizes the importance of incentives to help low income buyers afford the technology, I strongly endorse efforts by DEQ to maintain and manage their EV rebate program as we seek to move our state further along in the transition to electric vehicles. We particularly seek \$12 million or more to fund the EV rebate program.
- While electrifying the state passenger vehicle fleet is valuable, we recognize also the importance of electrifying the state's fleet of medium and heavy-duty electric vehicles with rebates and urge at least \$60 million to support this effort.
- We have been engaging with DEQ on the development of a state Climate Protection Program since Governor Brown signed Executive Order 20-04 over 5 years ago. We have been very disappointed in the behavior of Oregon's utilities in consistently pushing back against the development of this plan as they create the clear impression that, despite protestations to the contrary, they really don't understand how serious the climate crisis is and how critical it is that all of us in our personal and professional lives undertake

whatever steps we can to reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases. The state DEQ has been effective in taking the lead in developing the CPP. We look ahead to DEQ continuing to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that the CPP is as effective as it possibly can be as the agency continues to conduct and further develop its Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program, supports the likes of the Clean Fuels Program, and assists jurisdictions as they seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For the above reasons Southern Oregon Climate Action Now urges the Joint Committee on Ways and Means to recommend funding the state Department of Environmental Quality as extensively as possible. The Oregon that we cherish and love depends on our maintaining and enhancing the environment we currently enjoy.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Journet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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