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April 13th 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 as cofacilitator of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN) a grassroots climate organization of 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.

It is evident to those of us paying attention to federal and state issues that the Federal Government, through the Executive Branch, and EPA, and through the Republican-controlled Congress are not and will not maintain any semblance of a focus on environmental protection. This lack of interest in protecting environmental health extends to a total disregard our collective need to rein in greenhouse gas emissions and otherwise take steps towards lowering the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases, notably by promoting carbon sequestration in our natural and working lands.

In Oregon, this unfortunately means that the state Department of Environmental Quality will be required to pick up the slack generated by the lack of federal interest in environmental protection. Given the insane efforts on the part of the Executive Branch to cut funding for all manner of critical programs that address our lives, including environmental and human health, it will become critical that our state DEQ compensate.

Given these massive concerns, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now urges the legislature to fund as fully and completely as possible our state Department of Environmental Quality. In these tenuous days for our environment, we must, as a state, do all we can to assure Oregonians and healthy environment.

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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