



SIERRA CLUB

OREGON CHAPTER

April 18, 2024

Oregon State Legislature
Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: **Support for SB 5520**, funding for Oregon DEQ

Chair Frederick, Chair Levy, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of our more than 56,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club Oregon Chapter urges you to support SB 5520, a bill that would provide biennial funding for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

As Oregonians and communities across the country experience increased impacts from climate-induced and climate-exacerbated disasters, along with rising energy costs, the federal government is advancing dangerous rollbacks to environmental justice and climate protections. This cascade of federal rollbacks will have lasting harmful consequences for families, our economy, and the environment in our state, making DEQ's work to restore, maintain and enhance the quality of Oregon's air, land and water more critical than it has ever been.

We strongly urge your support of policy option packages (POPs) #111 and #170, which will support funding for Oregon's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program and address Critical Resource Gaps in order to address resource deficiencies and chronic underfunding that affects critical agency services and functions, as highlighted in the 2024 Secretary of State audit.

Strong implementation of Oregon's Climate Protection Program, Clean Fuels Program, Clean Truck Rules, and other DEQ programs is critical for addressing future climate impacts and for continued growth in Oregon's clean energy economy. Additionally, Oregon's update of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy has identified DEQ's

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funding gaps as detrimental for protection of safe drinking water for Oregon communities.

We also urge you to prioritize continued investments in the Medium and Heavy Duty Electric Vehicle Rebates & Infrastructure Grants and Oregon Clean Vehicle Rebate Program / Charge Ahead program, the key legislatively-established incentive programs that DEQ is responsible for implementing. These incentive programs have been accelerating the adoption of electric trucks and vehicles, delivering cleaner air, better public health, and improved economic mobility for Oregonians.

The Sierra Club Oregon Chapter urges you to vote yes on SB 5520 to support a strong agency budget for DEQ.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Damon Motz-Storey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Damon" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Motz-Storey".

Damon Motz-Storey, Oregon Chapter Director, Sierra Club