



1536 SE 11th Ave., Ste. B | Info@EnvironmentOregon.org
Portland, OR 97214 | P (503) 231-1986
www.EnvironmentOregon.org | F (503) 231-4007

March 1, 2017

TO: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

FR: Charlie Fisher, State Director, Environment Oregon

RE: Support of SB 557

Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based, environmental advocacy organization. We represent over 40,000 members and supporters from across the state.

We support SB 557 as a critical step to reduce Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions to the level that is required to avoid the worst consequences of climate change.

It's clearer than ever that climate change is a real threat to the health of Oregon communities and families across the state. From more intense and frequent forest fires, to extreme summer drought, to ocean acidification, the consequences are already being felt. Our members are everyday Oregonians from across Oregon who are deeply concerned by the threat of climate change and want to see bold and immediate action.

In light of the urgent nature of the problem, SB 557 is a critical step that must be taken to reduce Oregon's greenhouse gas emissions to levels dictated by the best available climate science. The bill's mandated cap on greenhouse gas emissions serves as a necessary backstop to make sure Oregon does what is necessary in the most efficient, least-cost, and equitable way possible.

SB 557 would not only reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions to levels that are scientifically necessary, but in doing so would build upon an already growing clean energy economy. The solar industry, just one of many local clean energy sectors, already employs more than 2,100 Oregonians in installation, manufacturing, and other related fields. Incentivizing local clean energy generation and reducing the use of out-of-state fossil fuels would further drive Oregon's clean energy economy.

When it comes to climate change and clean energy, Oregon should be leading the way. **On behalf of our members and supporters across the state, Environment Oregon urges you to support SB 557.**

Sincerely,

Charlie Fisher
State Director