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March 1, 2017

The Honorable Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair  
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: Support for Senate Bill 557**

Dear Senator Dembrow,

Oregon can lead the nation in the transition to a clean energy future. Building upon our commitment to address climate change, our state is poised to reap the rewards of job growth, clean air and local renewable energy. As advocates for Oregon's clean energy future, the Metro Council supports Senate Bill 557, which adopts statewide greenhouse gas emissions goals for 2025 and creates funding mechanisms to mitigate pollution and effects of climate change. While we do not have a position on the specific funding mechanism proposed in this measure, we strongly support the state investing in climate emissions reductions strategies.

Mandated by the Oregon Legislature in 2009, the Metro Council developed and adopted a regional strategy to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions from cars and small trucks by 2035. Adopted in December 2014 with broad support from community, business and elected leaders across the region, the [Climate Smart Strategy](#) relies on policies and investments that have already been identified as local priorities in communities across the region. Our analysis demonstrated that with an increase in transportation funding for all modes, particularly transit operations, this region can provide more safe and reliable transportation choices, keep our air clean, build healthy and equitable communities and grow our economy while reducing greenhouse gas emissions from light-duty vehicles as directed by the Oregon Legislature. It also showed that a lack of investment in needed transportation infrastructure will result in falling short of our greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal and other desired outcomes.

SB 557 sets forth tangible actions that aim to fund projects with profound and lasting impact in mitigating climate change. For example, the Southwest Corridor project will provide a range of benefits, including more accessible and reliable transit service, increased bus service and options and making biking and walking more safe and convenient. Increased state funding mechanisms for transit and other-related investments will produce outcomes that lead to significant reductions in transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.

If Oregon is serious about fighting climate change and reducing dependence on fossil fuels, then it needs to make serious and substantive investments to address and reduce the state's share of global climate pollution. This bill provides a pathway to ensure that these resources are invested into programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an effective and equitable manner.

**On behalf of the Metro Council, I urge your support of Senate Bill 557.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Hughes".

Tom Hughes  
Metro Council President