

**Testimony to the House Energy & Environment Committee  
on HB 4148  
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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

**Oregon Environmental Council supports HB 4148.**

Oregon needs a strong, well-resourced state energy department with technical expertise, a thumb on the pulse of emerging technologies, and experience with policies throughout Oregon and the region. ODOE needs to be a forward-looking agency that helps steer Oregon into 21<sup>st</sup> Century energy use.

Energy touches every aspect of our lives and energy technologies are quickly evolving. But the harmful consequences of energy resources—including contributing to dangerous climate change—must also be considered. This can be done while balancing stability and affordability.

We greatly appreciate that HB 4148 directs development of an Energy Board by expertise rather than energy-use background. Because energy infrastructure persists for decades upon decades, it is critical that climate change be taken into account in the agency's operations, decision-making, energy planning and strategic direction.

While we appreciate the effort to accommodate a variety of stakeholder's input, we do not believe it is in the best interest of the agency or the Oregon public to have Energy Board members with pecuniary interests. Rather, those perspectives should be heard through the Energy Advisory Work Group and/or non-voting membership and strongly encourage an amendment to this end.

The agency should be commended for the work done thus far responding to legislative and stakeholder recommendations. The agency has undergone a tremendous transformation in the last few years. It's time to let the agency move forward.

HB 4148 provides the best structure for a successful, forward-looking agency. We urge your consideration and support of HB 4148.

