



Representative Ken Helm
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 4148

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

We submit this testimony in strong support of HB 4148. Climate Solutions and many others look to the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) to provide technical expertise, data, and thought leadership on energy policy. The passage of Senate Bill 1547 in 2016 and other recent legislation has chartered a new course for Oregon's energy future and ODOE has an important role to play in its successful implementation. Looking forward, Oregon will need to take additional steps to achieve its legislated greenhouse gas reduction goals and changing energy environment, and it should be able to rely on its state energy department to inform those efforts. In addition, ODOE plays an important role in ensuring energy safety, including oversight of legacy nuclear energy issues, and in the siting of new energy facilities.

Climate Solutions believes that Oregon is stronger and better positioned to lead on climate and the transition to a clean energy economy if our state energy department is well-functioning and resourced. We applaud the efforts of the Legislature and the Governor to develop more transparency, oversight and accountability within ODOE. Progress is being made with ongoing reforms within ODOE while also rebuilding ODOE's strong policy expertise.

Climate Solutions supports the priorities set out in HB 4148, including creation of an advisory group with oversight functions. Unlike the Senate bills, SB 1519 and SB 1537, this bill does not represent a wholesale shifting of ODOE's rulemaking and policymaking authority to a new commission. With the successful changes in staffing and roles at ODOE (including elimination of tax credit programs within the agency), ODOE already has moved a long way from where it was. An advisory group could further this transition and provide added transparency and oversight functions while not completely altering how the agency conducts business. *This is the right-sized approach to move forward.*

In addition, Climate Solutions supports that any appointments to the advisory group represent a diverse range of energy backgrounds with a commitment to equity and inclusion. We are concerned that up to 2 appointees may be employed by or contracted to regulated utilities who have pecuniary interests in the decisions made by the advisory group and agency. However, this

is preferred to the Senate bills' proposal to provide an even more outsized utility participation on their proposed commission.

Finally, Climate Solutions supports that HB 4148 does not attempt to change state energy policy or the ODOE mission as is done in the Senate versions. For example, SB 1519-1 removes reference to concern over expanding non-renewable forms of energy to the system and discouraging inefficient modes of transportation. After the Legislature has passed visionary legislation requiring 50% renewable energy and the phase-out of coal in recent years, it would be a step backward to remove that policy statement.

Thank you,



Meredith Connolly
Oregon State Director
Climate Solutions

About our organization:

Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis. For 20 years, Climate Solutions has been working to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon reduction policies that demonstrate that clean energy and broadly shared economic prosperity go hand-in-hand.