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Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Testimony in support of HB 3409

Submitted by Laura Tabor, Climate Action Director

Chairs Dembrow and Pham and Subcommittee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3409.

The Nature Conservancy in Oregon (TNC) is a science-based, non-partisan organization working in communities around the state to manage lands and waters in varied ecosystems. TNC partners with tribes, ranchers, farmers, fishers, timber, and environmental interests to tackle some of the most challenging conservation issues facing people and nature. Addressing the climate change crisis is a core component of TNC's work to create a world where people and nature can thrive.

The Climate Action Package (HB 3630/3409) is critical for advancing climate and energy priorities that advance Oregon's leadership in setting ambitious, science-driven policy and investing in implementing it. Collectively, it offers Oregon the opportunity to capitalize on over \$1 billion of unprecedented federal funding to build our state's capacity to fulfill these policies. This will bring the benefits of Oregon's clean energy transition to all parts of the state including rural, tribal, and other environmental justice communities.

TNC strongly supports advancing the full Climate Action Package. The sections regarding State Policy for Natural Climate Solutions, Finding Opportunities and Reducing Conflict in Siting Photovoltaic Solar Power Generation Facilities, and Oregon Climate Action Commission (formerly SB 530, HB 3181, and SB 522, respectively) reflect some of TNC's top legislative priorities this year. These sections would ensure Oregon:

- Creates the structure, direction, and funding for nature to contribute to climate mitigation and resilience;
- Identifies characteristics of lands best suited for solar development, informed by tribal consultation and with options for local jurisdictions to incorporate these characteristics and community needs in siting processes; and
- Positions the Oregon Global Warming Commission to better support the implementation of crucial climate programs through expanded membership and staffing.

In addition, the Resilient Buildings package offers important policy to make our buildings more efficient and resilient, and the TREES section makes vital investments in tree canopy and conservation.

We strongly urge your support of HB 3409 and moving this bill forward.