



Oregon Just Transition Alliance



NW Energy Coalition
for a clean and affordable energy future



The Nature Conservancy



June 7, 2023

RE: Please vote YES on the Climate Action Package (HB 3409 & HB 3630)

Dear Co-Chairs Dembrow and Pham, and members of the committee,

The undersigned organizations representing environmental justice, climate, business, labor, and natural resource communities from across Oregon enthusiastically urge your support on the Climate Action Package, HB 3409 and HB 3630. The policies included in this package were strategically crafted to leverage unprecedented federal funding for climate and clean energy, and will provide critical public services to reduce climate and air pollution, support healthy, affordable, resilient communities, and create family-wage jobs across Oregon. **On behalf of our organizations' thousands of members across the state of Oregon, we respectfully urge you to vote yes on the Climate Action Package.**

It cannot be overstated: Oregon is running out of time to act on climate and protect our communities. Climate-fueled extreme heat, drought, and wildfires are already devastating entire communities, threatening local economies, and worsening public health outcomes across the state. **The policies and programs included in the Climate Action Package represent essential services that will make Oregon communities safer, healthier, more resilient and affordable.**

At the same time, this widely-supported package will be vital to harnessing and translating unprecedented federal investments into meaningful near-term benefits for Oregon families, workers, and local economies. **By investing nearly \$100 million in crucial climate action, the Climate Action Package will enable the state to leverage at least 10 times¹ that in federal funding.** With Oregon families

¹ This is a conservative estimate based on federal funding leveraged from just two priorities included in the Climate Action Package: the Resilient Buildings Policy Package and Natural Climate Solutions bill. These policies alone will enable the state to leverage more than \$1 billion in federal funding over the next ten years.

struggling to pay their energy bills and future climate extremes an unfortunate inevitability, we cannot afford to leave hundreds of millions of dollars on the table to improve the lives and livelihoods of Oregonians across the state. Urgent legislative action to pass and fully fund the Climate Action Package will help ensure that doesn't happen.

For these and other reasons, we once again strongly urge you to **vote YES on HB 3409 and HB 3630**. For more information on the individual policies included in the Climate Action Package, including federal funding that stands to be leveraged and essential services and benefits for Oregonians that will be provided by these policies, please see the attached bill breakdown.

Thank you for your consideration,

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Snapshot of Policies Included in Climate Action Package:

Resilient Buildings Policy Package ([SB 868](#), [869](#), [870](#), [871](#), [HB 3166](#)) - Leverages federal funding to improve efficiency of homes and buildings; supports healthy, affordable, resilient communities and family-wage job creation across Oregon.

Community Resilience Hubs ([HB 2990](#)) - Funds community resilience hubs and networks across the state to coordinate and provide access to resources and services for vulnerable populations during disasters.

Natural Climate Solutions ([SB 530](#)) - Supports cost-sharing to leverage tens of millions in federal investments for Oregon forestland owners, farmers, and ranchers to implement climate-smart land management practices, increasing carbon sequestration and improving the resilience of Oregon communities and natural resource economies.

Oregon Climate Council Modernization ([SB 522](#)) - Aligns Oregon's long-outdated greenhouse gas reduction goals with current science and provides long-overdue staffing and representation on the Oregon Global Warming Commission.

State Energy Strategy ([HB 2534](#)) - Directs ODOE to develop a comprehensive state energy strategy that identifies optimized pathways to achieving the state's energy policies.

County Energy Resilience Planning ([HB 3378](#)) - Supports counties' development of energy resilience planning and integration into wildfire mitigation plans.

Medium and Heavy Duty Electric Vehicle Rebate Program ([HB 2714](#)) - Creates a DEQ program that can compete for federal funding from \$1 billion IRA fund for medium- and heavy-duty zero emission vehicle rebates to replace diesel versions like delivery trucks and buses. With a state investment of at least \$1M to set up the program and seed the fund, a conservative estimate is that Oregon could secure at least \$12M in federal funding for these rebates.

Siting Renewable Energy ([HB 3181](#)) - Directs DLCD in coordination with ODOE to find opportunities and minimize conflicts on siting of solar projects in Oregon through engaging stakeholders in a rulemaking advisory committee process.

Trees Restoring Economic and Environmental Stability Act ([HB 3016](#)) - Creates a Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program at DLCD to fund communities to develop projects that increase tree canopy, improve livability, and support water quality and conservation.

Environmental Justice and Tribal Navigator ([SB 852](#)) - Establishes a program within ODOE to provide information about state and federal funding opportunities and other technical assistance to rural, Tribal, and other environmental justice communities as they work to develop energy projects or build energy-related capacity.

Climate Protection Program Fee Bill ([HB 3196](#)) - Supports DEQ oversight and accountability of Oregon's cornerstone Climate Protection Program to ensure the Community Climate Investment program achieves its intended climate pollution reduction goals and benefits for communities of color, rural, low-income, Tribal, and other environmental justice communities across the state.

Residential Solar Rebate Program Extension ([HB 3418](#)) - Lifts sunset on solar and storage project rebates for residential customers and low-income service providers, extending the program through January 2029, enabling the program to potentially receive and distribute tens of millions in federal funding from EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

Residential Heat Pump Program Extension ([HB 3056](#)) - Supports implementation of ODOE's Residential and Community Heat Pump Deployment Programs established by the 2021 legislature to bring much-needed heat relief to Oregon communities.

Community Renewable Energy Grant Program - Provides funding for ODOE's Community Renewable Energy Grant Program, established by the legislature in 2021, to support planning and developing community renewable energy and energy resilience projects.

Harmful Algal Blooms ([HB 2647](#)) - Protects Oregonians from harmful algal blooms in drinking water, which are likely to occur more often due to shifting precipitation patterns from climate change.

Woody Biomass for Low-Carbon Fuels ([HB 3590](#)) - Directs College of Forestry at Oregon State University to research development of fuel pathways for low carbon fuels derived from woody biomass residues from forestry operations.