

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

# SOCAN

Confronting Climate Change

<https://socan.eco>

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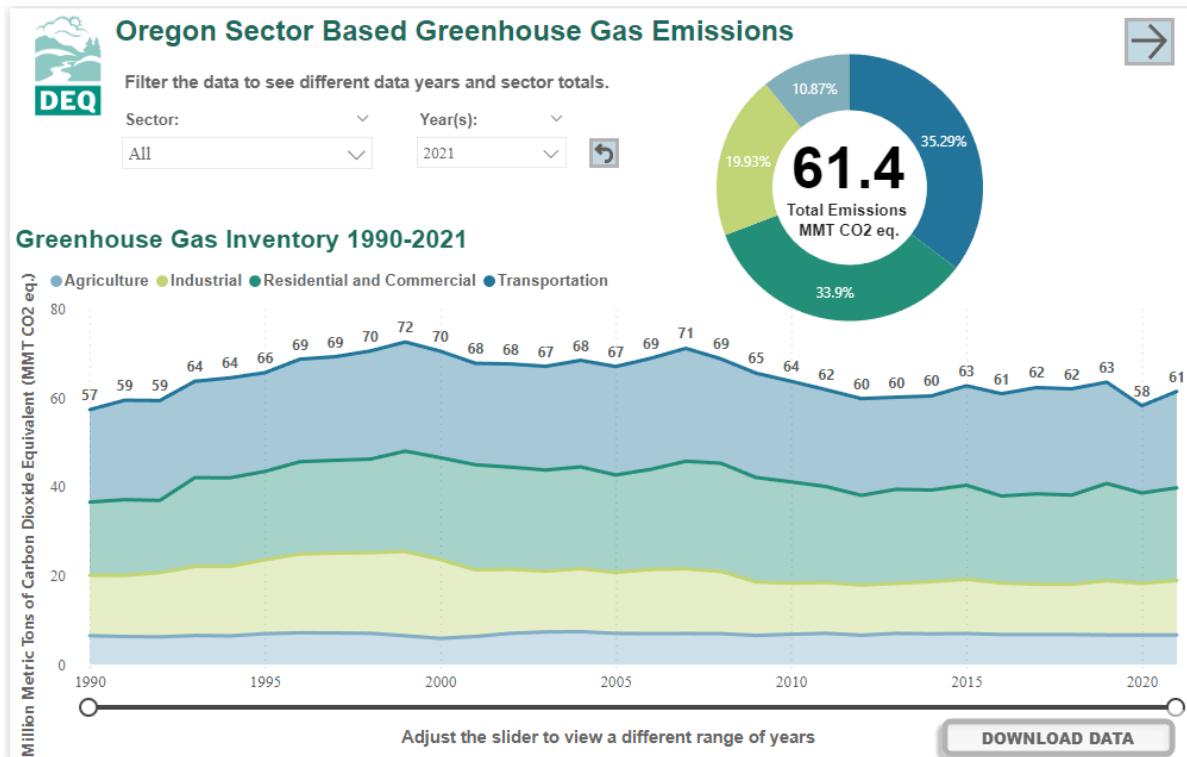
February 14<sup>th</sup> 2024

Reference Bill Number SB1530-3

Chair Jayma and Members of the Senate Committee On Housing and Development

I write as cofacilitator of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now, an organization of some 2,000 Southern Oregonians who are concerned about the climate crisis and encourage state action to address it. As rural and coastal Southern Oregonians, we live on the frontlines of the warming, reducing snowpack, heatwaves, drought and the increasing wildfire risk that these trends conspire to produce. Because of this, we pay close attention to what is happening in Salem in terms of legislative proposals.

In addition to our concern about the climate crisis, we are also aware of the housing crisis and



its effect on low-income Oregonians. As demonstrated in Figure 1, greenhouse gas emissions

from the Residential Sector constituted a substantial proportion of the total of 61.4 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions in 2021 (DEQ 2022). This pattern has been consistent since 1990 when data were first gathered and reported.

The bottom line is that healthy, well-constructed energy-efficient homes serve to enhance the well-being of residents and reduce their monthly costs while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Although building healthy and energy efficient homes may cost a little more than conventional cheap and poorly constructed dwellings, their long term operations and life cycle costs for homeowners are considerably lower. This comprises a perfect example that dispels the myth that addressing climate change conflicts with economics.

Given the commitment of the state to addressing the housing crisis by promoting construction of affordable homes and address the climate crisis through programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote carbon sequestration, SOCAN strongly supports SB1530-03 since this can have the dual benefit of addressing both the affordable housing crisis in Oregon and Oregon's contribution to national and global greenhouse gas emissions.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan P. Journet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Alan" on top, "P." in the middle, and "Journet" on the bottom.

Alan Journet

DEQ 2022 Oregon Greenhouse Gas Sector-Based Inventory Data. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/ghgp/Pages/GHG-Inventory.aspx>