



OPAL
Environmental Justice Oregon

opalpdx.org

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April 11, 2017

House Committee on Transportation Policy

900 Court Street NE

Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 3230

Chair McKeown, Vice Chair Meek, Vice Chair Vial and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon (OPAL), I am writing to express our strong support for HB 3230. OPAL builds power for Environmental Justice and Civil Rights in communities, specifically working alongside low-income families, people of color, immigrants, and individuals from East Portland, which has the highest concentration of youth in the city of Portland, Oregon. We organize low-income people & people of color to achieve a safe and healthy environment where we live, work, play, and pray.

Multimodal transportation is central to everyone's life, but not all residents are able to enjoy the benefits of this massive public investment. Access to transportation options is a lifeline for many, connecting us to a education, jobs, housing, social and medical services, and recreation. Our current transportation system has many direct adverse health consequences, such as asthma, disincentives for physical activity and the associated rise in obesity and chronic illnesses in all our communities, affecting children and youth the most. Our goal of making transportation efficient, affordable, safe and accessible is not to move people faster and farther, but to offer more options and greater access to all the amenities necessary for a healthy life.

The benefits of having Safe Routes to Schools are immense: from an education standpoint, it can increase the school attendance of children and youth; from an economic perspective, investing in our children at a young age creates pathways to accessing skills that in turn help with job readiness; from an Environmental Justice viewpoint, providing children and youth with the infrastructure and encouragement programming to walk, bike and use public transit reduces road congestion, benefitting our air quality and livability in the neighborhoods around schools.

**Building Power for Environmental Justice
and Civil Rights in Our Communities**



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At OPAL, we recognize that investing in our next generation should be a commitment in ensuring that not one student is left behind. We are enthusiastic in supporting HB 3230, especially because of the commitment in advancing investment in Title 1 schools where over 50% of students are eligible to receive free and reduced lunch. This helps promote equal access to opportunities for positive health outcomes.

Thank you for your consideration,

Vivian Satterfield

Deputy Director

**Building Power for Environmental Justice
and Civil Rights in Our Communities**