

Dear Chair Pam Marsh and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Lucy Gragg. I am a student at McDaniel (formerly Madison) High School in Portland. I am writing to request your support for HB 2488.

The use of Oregon's land to fight the climate crisis and serve frontline communities is important to me because as a state we must be leaders in fighting back against the horrors of climate change. We have the opportunity to protect our land, people, and wildlife from the life-threatening effects of the climate crisis. It is important for us to value climate justice in our state because our frontline communities are depending on it. Low income communities and communities of color disproportionately experience the consequences of climate change even though the major contributors are the large-scale wealthy organizations who continue to make decisions that negatively impact our communities and land. In Portland, there are strong links between neighborhoods with large communities of color and the highest levels of pollution and heat islands. This shows that climate change is not only an environmental issue but also a racial justice issue. It requires us to have a much larger focus on these issues and how we will handle them going forward. Passing HB 2488 would allow our state to take the crucial steps in fighting back against climate change and prove that we are willing to take the necessary steps to protect our communities.

Thank you for the consideration and for your service.

Lucy Gragg