

Dear Chair Pam Marsh and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tiernan O'Neal and I am a senior at Jefferson High School in Portland. I am writing to request your support on HB2488.

The use of Oregon's land to fight the climate crisis and serve frontline communities is important to me because I care about the future, and the futures of the people I love. Our government has failed to take necessary action regarding the growing climate crisis, and that must change.

Not only does HB2488 work to protect our planet, it addresses the racial disparities present in environmental and climate injustice. Communities of color are disproportionately affected by natural disasters in Oregon. During the recent fires in Southern Oregon, high income areas like Jackson County were notified and evacuated in advance, while more racially diverse low-income counties were never given a warning. Injustices like this are exactly why climate justice is crucial to myself and so many others.

Thank you for your consideration and your service.

Tiernan O'Neal,
Portland Oregon
