

Communities of color are disproportionately affected by climate change, and Indigenous peoples should have the right to work toward changing that on the lands that they own. When our local governments make critical urban planning decisions, they are not giving adequate consideration to their environmental impact outside of limited ad hoc reporting that serves no purpose in informing policy, only pacifying the general public with opaque statistics. For instance, self-proclaimed "climate leader" Ted Wheeler and the Oregon Department of Transportation have continued to push forward with the widening of I-5 into the Albina neighborhood (right into the backyard of Harriet Tubman middle school, where the air quality is already so poor that students cannot safely have outdoor recess) using false traffic projections debunked by community coalitions. We need to establish an infrastructure that places these decisions in the hands of the most impacted, not municipal officials looking to inflate local commerce. HB 2488 is just the first step in ensuring that our state's land use system can accommodate an equitable approach to climate change mitigation/adaptation, hazard risk reduction and environmental justice for all. Please support this bill today, and please also consider voicing your support for the recommended budget of \$800,000 to both initiate and finish the adoption of a new Goal 20 for Equity and Climate in this biennium.