

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee,

Almost 50 years ago, the passage of SB 100 and establishment of the Statewide Land Use Planning Goals and Land Conservation and Development Commission put Oregon at the forefront of smart land use policy. It is striking to think of the vision of those who worked to develop and pass SB 100 to ensure that decisions related to growth and development would always consider impacts to people, farmland and natural resources.

To continue Oregon's long tradition of forward thinking on land use policy, I'm writing to urge you to support **HB 2488—Equity and Climate in Land Use**. We need this action to bring our statewide planning framework up to date with the enormous climate challenges facing communities today. Transportation is by far the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Oregon, followed by the residential and commercial sectors.ⁱ Given this, and the scale and urgency of the crisis, it is inappropriate for local governments to continue making decisions that impact urban growth and density without sufficient consideration of climate impacts.

I know that you are aware of the intricate connections between land use planning, environmental justice and climate change. As a resident of East Portland, in one of Oregon's most diverse school districts with a high share of students who rely on free and reduced lunch, my community faces greater environmental risks than many other parts of Portland, with fewer resources to mitigate those risks. We live near industrial corridors, with freeways cutting through neighborhoods and lower-density development patterns that increase our reliance on cars to access employment, services and basic amenities. We have more pollution than inner Portland, but fewer green spaces to capture pollution and urban heat. I believe that passing HB 2488 to update Oregon's land use planning system is critical to address climate change in a holistic way that addresses, rather than exacerbates, existing inequities such as these.

Thank you for considering my comments. While the prospect of a climate-changed future—and present—is frightening, we can also imagine an alternate scenario in which Oregonians have met the challenge head-on, using every available tool. Please support HB 2488 to continue Oregon's tradition of visionary land use policy, ensuring that climate considerations are integrated into decisions about the built environment in every town and city.

Sincerely,



Danell Norby

ⁱ <https://www.oregon.gov/energy/energy-oregon/Pages/Greenhouse-Gas-Snapshot.aspx>