

Date: March 7th, 2021

Dear Chair Pam Marsh and Members of the Committee,

For the record my name is Ania Ty and I am a third year student at Oregon State University's Honors College. I am writing to request your support for HB 2488.

I am a first generation Pinay immigrant; my family is from the Philippines - one of the most disaster prone regions in the entire world - and it has been devastated by some of the strongest typhoons to ever make landfall in the past decade. As a result, entire towns in my mother's province are slowly sinking underwater and my grandmother fled our family's home during the peak of Typhoon Goni.

Our family immigrated to the United States under the impression that life here would be safer and more equitable, but so far that has not been the case.

Oregon's past and present clearly demonstrates a pattern of strategic neglect; in Portland, the massive casualties of the Vanport floods were the direct result of negligence and racist redlining. Today, low-income, urban communities of color - particularly Black folks - suffer from heat islands; these create dangerously high temperatures in their communities while Portland's wealthier, white neighborhoods experience much lower, safer temperatures. In rural areas, Oregon's migrant workers - many of whom are Latino - are suffering from asthma and heat-related illness, which was especially clear during the 2020 wildfires.

These public health crises will only increase in their frequency and severity as climate change worsens. As a result, we must identify folks hit hardest by the climate crisis and center their voices in Oregon's climate plans to create a healthy, equitable future for all.

Land planning strategies built on a foundation of equity and justice will save the lives of thousands of Oregonians - the people whose human rights you are meant to protect and uphold - so please ensure HB2488 becomes law. Thank you for your consideration and service.

Ania Ty
Beaverton, Oregon
Our Climate Fellow
