

Chair Beyer, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee:
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SCR 17: An Environmental Justice Framework for Oregon. As a resident of Eugene, OR who lived near the areas affected by the fires, I urge you to support SCR 17.

I acknowledge that our State Legislature needs to do much more to address the urgent issues of environmental and climate justice in a timely fashion. The first step is agreeing to a statement of principles that set the bar for future action. The proposed resolution follows a valuable tradition of passing resolutions at times we must take the first steps to right wrongs, i.e., the UN Declaration on Human Rights.

? Events such as the September 2020 wildfires disproportionately impacted historically disadvantaged and underrepresented communities in many rural areas of our state. In recognition of climate trends such as fire, flood, and energy system overloads, SCR 17 draws our attention to the need to repair communities to “build back better,” and states that Oregon will “address environmental pollution on the basis of the right of all people to clean air, safe and affordable drinking water, and protection from climate hazards and the sustainable preservation of ecological integrity.”

I, urge you to vote yes on SCR 17. As Oregon takes on the monumental challenge of redressing these impacts, there should be a clear indication from the Legislature that the needs of historically and disproportionately impacted.