

Members of the Committee,

We are writing on behalf of community and coalition members in support of SCR-17 and to urge the members of the Committee to vote yes on SCR-17 during the legislative session.

The Portland Harbor Community Coalition's (PHCC) mission is to elevate the voices of communities most impacted by pollution in the Portland Harbor Superfund site, including Native, Black/African American, immigrant and refugee, houseless people, and area residents, and to ensure that impacted communities benefit from and lead the cleanup, restoration, and redevelopment of the harbor. PHCC supports SCR-17 because it will begin to establish a framework for ensuring the equitable application of Oregon's environmental regulations for all communities impacted by industrial contamination.

This bill, which is titled "Establishing environmental justice framework of principles for State of Oregon", would enshrine environmental justice principles in state law and would require state and regulatory agencies to ensure that communities can participate equitably in the environmental decisions which could impact their lives and livelihoods. It would also make it easier for PHCC and other community advocacy groups to continue doing our work and also ensure more people are included in these processes through state funding and programs.

PHCC urges the members of the Committee to support SCR-17.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Portland Harbor Community Coalition