

Climate Goal 20

BILL NUMBER: HB 2488-2

Representative Moore-Green and Committee Members,

I live in Salem in Rep. Moore-Green's district and I am on the Salem Climate Action Plan (CAP) Task Force as a representative of 350Salem. I am writing to ask you to support HB 2488-2, Climate Goal 20.

First, some members of the Task Force suggest waiting for the state to act so that Salem does not have to take the lead on anything. This makes state action critical to encouraging local action.

Second, the Task Force uses state laws and regulations on everything from energy to housing to guide strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. At no point does piecemeal local action make state action unnecessary.

Third, one of the limitations that the Salem CAP Task Force has faced is the inability of the greenhouse gas statistical model to take into account city-level land use changes. The "Our Salem" comprehensive land use plan revision has also encountered this problem. The models are not sensitive enough to show greenhouse gas emissions reductions based on, for example, denser housing. It is difficult to address land use adequately at the city level when modeling for it is inadequate. Thus, state guidance on land use planning is a critical part of writing a city-level CAP.

Fourth, measure what matters. The Salem CAP Task Force and the consultants hired by the city of Salem have had difficulty accessing data on equity variables. These need to be collected in a more systematic way and made accessible for city planning. Each city, acting on their own, should not have to reinvent the wheel and collect these data individually. Additionally, many climate databases do not have data on equity and many equity sources do not have data on climate, making it difficult to bring this data together, especially when data sources have different units of measure.

Thank you for supporting HB 2488-2 which would update and clarify land use goals in terms of both climate and equity, offer cities more guidance (advisory committee), support equitable participation in land use decisions, and institutionalize an equity mapping tool.

Thank you,  
Prof. Janet Lorenzen  
(Dept of Sociology, Willamette University)  
Salem, OR resident  
Salem Climate Action Plan Task Force member  
350Salem member