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March 29, 2021

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair  
Members, House Committee on Energy and Environment  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: House Bill 2488-2

Chair Marsh, members of the committee. My name is Rod Park. I own and operate a production wholesale nursery in Gresham and Clackamas County. Like most of Oregon growers we primarily export across the nation and Canada. I am a past president of the Oregon Association of Nurseries and a member of the OAN's Government Relations Committee. I am also a former Metro Councilor having served 3 terms.

You have had earlier testimony from the OAN's executive director Jeff Stone on the importance of the one billion dollar nursery industry to Oregon so I will not repeat it. Growers in Oregon are blessed with water and land for growing our superior trees and plants. We are also blessed with a climate which combined with Oregon's other attributes, allows us to compete with anyone. Our products help reduce greenhouse cases and heat islands.

We know climate change is real. The effects are real. We see the change in our growing seasons and our water supplies. Our snow packs are smaller and melt faster. We see more pests and diseases from warmer climates.

As a Metro Councilor I have experienced the disparities and difficulties implementing our land use and transportation system. For example, even with a relatively blank canvas, the former city of Damascus could not overcome perceived winners and losers with trying to protect the environment and build a vibrant community, good jobs, walkable neighborhoods with integrated schools and parks along with a transportation system. It is the last item which is known to be key to reducing greenhouse gases and the most challenging as people and goods need to move.

The -2 amendments are an improvement to the original bill as it narrows the scope, however the nursery industry still has concerns with adding an additional goal which may diminish the protection of farm and forest lands. We have seen previous legislation introduced to expand or make easier the expansion of urban growth boundaries in the pursuit of affordable housing. We are concerned a similar result could occur with a well-meaning new goal. We also note the possibility if a climate goal is adopted and is properly implemented, it could result in greater protections of farm and forest lands by limiting UGB expansions due to greenhouse gas production.

In any case we do not want for farmland to be sacrificed for another goal as it happens for housing, industrial jobs, warehousing or the perceived need of the moment.

Thank you,  
Rod Park – Owner  
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OREGON  
ASSOCIATION OF  
NURSERIES