

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Helm and Smith and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment,

My name is Gimena Olguin. I am a 27-year-old Mexican-American from Tualatin, Oregon. I graduated from Warner Pacific University in 2015, after earning a four-year-full ride leadership scholarship, and I currently work for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, where I serve as a Business Advisor. I am a first-generation college graduate and the daughter of two immigrants. I have always striven to give my community a voice. I was a member Tualatin Library Advisory Committee, ran for the Tigard-Tualatin School Board District, and contributed to the creation and implementation of Oregon's only Latin American public market (the Portland Mercado). This is the reason that I am writing this letter to express my support for the amendments to HB 2488.

BIPOC communities have historically been limited from having a say in land use planning in the state of Oregon. These amendments will help us be able to have input in decisions that affect our lives and health. The amendments will also ensure that the issue of climate change is no longer ignored and equitable in land use decision making. Climate change is a real threat, and we have all seen it affect us as Oregonians but specifically low-income BIPOC. Wildfires seem to get more destructive every summer and our community is forced to work during those circumstances (i.e. farmworkers and factory employees like my mother). Our State and local government needs to be proactive in dealing with the threats to come.

This bill is outdated by almost 50 years now, and an update is long overdue. Legislature written in the 1970's cannot be expected to properly align with the standards for equity and the environmental crisis that we have in 2021. Please pass the amendments for HB 2488.

Thank you,

Gimena Olguin