

March 29th, 2021

Testimony on HB 2488-2

House Committee on Energy and Environment

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

We write to you today from the Democratic Party of Oregon's Environmental Caucus and its Green New Deal Committee in support of HB-2488 -2 amendments. The purpose of the Caucus is to advance and promote pro-environment policies, such as the *Equity and Climate in Land Use* bill.

We need a statewide planning goal that addresses climate and equity issues. We must ensure that climate, equity, and environmental justice are addressed in our statewide land use planning decisions, and that those most affected by these decisions are involved in making them. The Environmental Caucus and the Oregon Green New Deal Committee **urge you to support HB 2488-2 —Equity and Climate in Land Use.**

Article 3 of the Democratic Party of Oregon's 2018 platform addresses the urgent need to act on climate change, community planning and land use laws, and support disadvantaged communities affected by environmental injustice. We stand by these planks to support community planning that includes the strict enforcement of land use laws, land use planning to preserve rural and natural environments, and regulatory programs that address social inequities and the environmental risks for impacted communities.

Currently our state's land use planning goals fail to explicitly recognize and consider climate change and take an equity lens in line with these goals. This omission challenges our state's ability to achieve Oregon's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals in accordance with Executive Order 20-04. The Oregon Health Authority directly links the need for climate mitigation to address the disproportionate economic and health effects on low-income and communities of color in Oregon ([Climate and Health in Oregon 2020](#)). Developing a more climate conscious land use planning system in the state is essential. Tribal governments, Native American, Black, Latinx and other communities of color have expressed that the current system for land use decision making and planning is not sufficient to genuinely include their communities' needs, even as they experience the worst of environmental risks and climate change effects.

The new Goal 20 this bill would implement does not override other goals, but rather works in tandem with the other nineteen goals that have guided Oregon for 50 years. This bill fills the gap that the Executive Order 20-04 cannot fill, ensuring guidance from the state for all local governments on climate goals and the support to achieve them. HB 2488-2 would ensure that all local governments center climate and equity in comprehensive plan updates now and far into the future to address the needs of our most impacted communities.

We strongly urge you to pass HB 2488-2 to add a new Land Use Planning Goal which will address climate change, environmental justice and include equity frameworks. We also urge you to support the recommended budget that will allow these policies to be effective.

Thank you for your efforts on passing this bill.

Sincerely,

Environmental Caucus Members: Jonathan Rudolf (Multnomah), Justin Brice (Benton), Fred Jenkins, Debbie Gordon (Multnomah), Jonathan Harker (Multnomah), Catherine Thomasson (Multnomah), David Gardiepy (Lane), Lon Otterby (Lane), Erika Kane (Clackamas), Lori Hood, David McCall - Mayor (Tillamook), John Therrien Dale Jr (Clackamas), Helen M Kennedy (Lane), Eric Harker (Washington), Ann L. Lovejoy (Marion), Thomas Karwaki (Multnomah), Gail Cordell (Clackamas), Carl Harker (Curry), Xanthia Wolland (Clackamas), Maxine R Hines, Craig Markham (Yamhill), & Alexis Biddle (Lane)