



TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
FROM: Haley Case-Scott, Climate Justice Grassroots Organizer, Beyond Toxics/NAACP Eugene  
Springfield  
DATE: April 22, 2021  
RE: State Budget for the 2021-23 Biennium

---

Co-Chairs Senator Johnson, Senator Steiner Hayward, and Representative Rayfield and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments in regard to the state budget for the 2021-23 biennium. My name is Haley Case-Scott and I am the Climate Justice Grassroots Organizer for Beyond Toxics, a statewide environmental justice organization advancing policies that ensure meaningful participation and cultivating grassroots leadership from Oregon's frontline and impacted communities.

I am submitting this testimony in support of funding the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)'s budget bill, [SB 5530](#), and, in particular, [Policy Option Package 90: Environmental Justice in Land Use Scoping](#). POP 90 would allocate \$800,000 to "a review of Oregon's land use planning goals and development of new rules for environmental justice, equity and climate." This POP is associated with HB 2488, a bill to update Oregon's land use laws with equity and inclusion components. HB 2488 passed the House Committee on Energy and Environment and has been assigned to the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

When you [announced](#) these virtual budget hearings, you expressed that you were "particularly interested in hearing how equity can be embedded across the board in both current and new investments." Funding DLCD's POP 90 and the associated bill, HB 2488, provides a crucial opportunity to invest in Oregon's statewide land use planning system to ensure equity and justice are at the heart of our land use decisions.

The impacts of land use decisions unfold against a backdrop of enduring racial and socioeconomic inequities that have shaped how our communities can withstand those impacts. We cannot be blind to equity and justice issues when addressing land use, environmental and climate concerns unless we wish to repeat and reinforce the decisions that have created sacrifice zones in low-income and BIPOC communities and left rural communities behind. Further, consultation and inclusion in land use decision-making processes is often inadequate and insufficient in scope. All too often, environmental risks and hazards are situated within the communities that can least afford and are least equipped to cope with the detrimental and disproportionate impacts.

We therefore want to strongly encourage you to support DLCD's budget and specifically POP 90. We also strongly believe that [HB 2488-7](#) provides the best legislative mechanism through which to implement

DLCD's objectives under POP 90. HB 2488-7 would launch an inclusive process to update Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 1 relating to public involvement. HB 2488-7 accomplishes the following:

- (1) Eliminates outdated terms, such as "minority" groups, and provides descriptive and acceptable definitions of disadvantaged groups and disparate impacts;
- (2) Ensures ample opportunities for historically underserved and underrepresented communities to meaningfully participate in land use decisions;
- (3) Includes provisions to ensure disadvantaged and under-resourced communities have adequate information about and ample opportunities to participate in land use decisions; and
- (4) Centers issues such as the need to identify disparate health risks and provide sufficient notice to disadvantaged communities in our land use laws.

POP 90 provides the funds needed to accomplish this necessary update as laid out in HB 2488-7.

In conclusion, we strongly urge you to support DLCD's budget and POP 90 and HB 2488-7 to guarantee **inclusive, responsible, and just** land use planning by Oregon's local governments. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Haley Case-Scott, Climate Justice Grassroots Organizer  
Beyond Toxics/NAACP Eugene Springfield  
[hcasescott@beyondtoxics.org](mailto:hcasescott@beyondtoxics.org)  
120 Shelton McMurphey Blvd., Suite 280  
Eugene, OR 97401