



Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Helm and Brock Smith and members of the House Energy and Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SCR 17: An Environmental Justice Framework for Oregon**. As the Policy Manager for Surfrider Foundation, a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to our ocean, waves and beaches, we are continually striving to engage and empower our grassroots constituency in Oregon to participate and influence the decision-making processes that impact our special ocean and coastal communities. While we strive to engage and empower all Oregonians, we recognize that we are all too often falling to familiarity and the privileged individuals lucky enough to volunteer their time generally become our primary advocates and the representative voices in these public processes. We can and we must do more to connect with all communities and populations throughout the state that are concerned about the coast, both to better understand their needs, but also to provide a platform for those underrepresented voices and populations

We acknowledge that this type of change must not only occur within our organization and how we operate, but also within the decision-making processes and institutions where environmental policy and natural resource management occur. We believe our State Legislature needs to do much more to address the urgent issues of environmental and climate justice in a timely fashion and a small first is agreeing to a statement of principles that establishes a clear framework and standard for future work. We see this resolution as a critical starter that we hope will lead to strong investments in resilient communities and future generations. It's important we recognize the disproportionate impacts that a lack of services and essential infrastructure and exposure to environmental hazards can have on vulnerable rural and urban communities; and, how a lack of participation and access to these decision-making processes exacerbates these impacts – particularly on those who are Black, Native American, Indigenous and People of color communities, essential workers and low-income people.

Surfrider Foundation urges your yes vote on SCR 17. We are especially appreciative of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Beyond Toxics for their leadership on this legislation and we enthusiastically lend our support. Oregon's coasts and beaches are frontline for climate change impacts and in many cases, the coast is home to some of the most rural and under-represented communities in Oregon, thus Surfrider Foundation believes this highly intersects our coastal mission and not just how we achieve protection for beaches and ocean, but also invest in more resilient communities in the face change. We must improve the public health and well-being of all communities while directly tackling the climate crisis and environmental injustice.

Sincerely,

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