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May 5, 2021

House Committee on Energy and Environment

Testimony in support of SCR 17

Submitted by Amelia Porterfield, Senior Policy Advisor

Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee:

We write to express our support of SCR 17, which sets an environmental justice framework for the State of Oregon.

The Nature Conservancy in Oregon (TNC) is a science-based, non-partisan organization with 80,000 supporters and members in every county. Based in communities around the state, we manage lands and waters in varied ecosystems and partner with tribes, ranchers, farmers, fishers, timber and environmental interests on some of the most challenging conservation issues facing people and nature.

Respect for People, Communities and Cultures is one of our core values. We cannot be successful in our mission of conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends if communities are unable to live and thrive in safety, security, and happiness.

Among other aims, we appreciate that this resolution elevates the importance of the experience and knowledge of Native Americans, indigenous communities and others whose lived experience and traditional knowledge systems hold wisdom important for the preservation and restoration of natural lands and waters for the benefit of all Oregonians.

Long standing systemic barriers to racial and socioeconomic equity persist within Oregon. We stand with frontline communities who experience disproportionate impacts from climate change and know that these impacts are exacerbated by historic inequities. We believe the state has a responsibility to ensure that steps are taken to dismantle structural socioeconomic inequalities, and support SCR 17 as momentum in that direction.

We thank the resolution's sponsors for bringing this legislation forward and appreciate this committee's leadership in considering it. We encourage you to pass this resolution to the floor.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.