

5/6/2021

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. I am a University of Oregon student in my late 20's who is also local to Eugene. I grew-up in the Bethel neighborhood and the majority of my family continues to live in the West Eugene area.

I urge you to support SCR 17. As someone who is both indigenous to Oregon, as a member of The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and who grew-up in West Eugene, the importance of SCR 17 is personal. Though we cannot change Oregon's history – guiding frameworks going forward are vital to encouraging ethical accountability in the future. This resolution is essential to facilitating quality of life for frontline communities in our state. People who are disproportionately affected by environmental factors both past and present. People who have been ignored and have suffered health consequences as a result. Oregon has some work to do to ensure the well-being of all communities. Areas that have been historically vulnerable are in need of public acknowledgement and change. I encourage you to consider the impact the Legislature has and responsibility to encourage equality for all Oregon residents. Supporting SCR 17 isn't the final step, but a first.

Sincerely,
Rayna Viles