

Submitter: Pamela Burry

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Measure: HB4077

February 4, 2022

To: House Committee On Environment and Natural Resources

Re: Environmental Justice and HB 4077

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Pamela Burry and I live in Sisters, Oregon, on the east side of the Cascade Mountains. Living on the east side is significant in this case, as wild fires of two years ago along the Santiam Pass were a terrifying and realistic look at what will be a part of our future. Portions of the small towns of Detroit, Mill City and Gates were incinerated in the fires and many people lost everything. The same is true in southern Oregon where low-income housing developments were mowed down by fire in the same year.

These are, by in large, underserved communities and when disaster hits hard help must come in with gusto. Telecommunications and power recovery, temporary housing, financial assistance, alternate schools, immediate food assistance, then, soon after, rebuilding lives.

In addition, preparing for disaster within communities is vital. Do they have a warning system in place; what is the escape route; how many roads in and out; do they have a car; how will mobilize; where will they go; where is housing? What can be done now, soon, before the next disaster of fires or floods arrive? How many (most) do not have air conditioning? Are there cooling stations nearby?

The total disruption of lives will be a matter of course from here on out in the state of Oregon and all over the world. Increased temperatures force us to fund all resources on many fronts to prepare communities and assist them.

We need good region-specific data and dedicated resources.

The Environmental Justice Task Force Needs a real budget and full staff. There must be a comprehensive and available structure in order to build such support.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 4077.

Yes to HB 4077.

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