



February 7, 2022

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4077 - SUPPORT

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

We write in strong support of HB 4077. Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit working to accelerate clean energy solutions to the climate crisis.

With HB 4077, Oregon has the opportunity to live up to its environmental justice principles set in place by SCR 17. HB 4077 ensures that the Environmental Justice Task Force is equipped to better serve Oregonians while also creating an environmental justice mapping tool to ensure that government bodies are able to consistently target benefits to our most vulnerable and highly impacted communities.

1. **Expand the capacity of the Environmental Justice Council (Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF))**
 - a. As climate change exacerbates communities most vulnerable to climate change's impacts, the needs of the EJTF have grown and evolved and is in desperate need of adequate resources and the infrastructure necessary to continue their work within environmental justice communities.
 - b. State support is needed to ensure that the EJTF is funded appropriately and able provide capacity to better serve environmental justice communities across Oregon.

2. **Develop a state-wide environmental justice mapping tool**
 - a. Not only is the use of data and mapping important to fully understand environmental, health, and demographic data as vulnerability indicators, but it is also important so that we may ensure government policies and programs that alleviate environmental injustices go to the communities most disproportionately vulnerable and impacted.
 - b. Currently, state agencies do not have a uniform definition of "environmental justice communities", making it harder to ensure that a quantitative analysis of populations most vulnerable are targeted to receive benefits.
 - c. While a federal EPA map ([EJScreen](#)) and state maps like, [CalEnviroScreen](#) in California and Washington's [Health Disparities Map](#) exist for the purposes listed above, an Oregon specific environmental justice map will give us a uniform analysis of who our most vulnerable populations in Oregon are.
 - i. We are in desperate need of a state specific mapping tool to consistently ensure populations most vulnerable are targeted to receive benefits.

Please support HB 4077! Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Victoria Paykar
Oregon Transportation Policy Manager