

To: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
From: Eleanor Ponomareff, Talent City Council  
Subject: Opposition to HB 2659 – Requiring DLCDC to update rules adopted in response to the Governor’s executive order (CFEC)  
Date: March 28, 2023

Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens, Members of the Committee,

I am a recently re-elected member of the Talent City Council, speaking on behalf of myself, and my constituents.

I am testifying in **strong opposition to HB 2659**, a bad-faith bill which seeks to undo the important and necessary work to encourage Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities. It is my hope that the committee declines to give this bill a hearing.

Here in Talent, we know first hand, the danger of climate change. The Labor Day fires of 2020 took 800 homes and 60 businesses, destroying roughly a third of our small town.

Even before the fire, here in Talent we had a deficit of affordable housing options for hundreds of our residents, with close to half our renter population cost-burdened. And we know the cost of parking. The numbers in 2016 were that parking adds \$142 to monthly rent, and 17 percent of the price of a home.

It makes no sense for us to continue to both prioritize and subsidize auto-dependency, and expect our climate and housing issues to go away.

Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities help support our work. Please reject this bill that would undermine us.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Ponomareff  
Talent City Council, Position #5  
Talent, Oregon