



CLEAN WATER. HEALTHY RIVERS.

February 20, 2025

**Columbia Riverkeeper’s Testimony to the House Committee on Emergency Management,  
General Government, and Veterans in Support of HB 3062.  
Submitted by Teryn Yazdani, Staff Attorney.**

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in **strong support of House Bill (HB) 3062, the Planning for Healthy Communities Act**. Columbia Riverkeeper is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the Columbia River and all life associated with it, from its headwaters to the Pacific Ocean. Columbia Riverkeeper has over 36,000 members and supporters who live, work, and recreate throughout the Columbia River Basin, including thousands of members and supporters in Oregon. We engage with river communities and advocate for strong environmental and public health protections through legal, policy, and organizing work.

**Oregon communities deserve to have their health and safety considered when decisions are being made to put industrial development next to where they live, work, receive care, and play to reduce and prevent significant harm.** Impacts from industrial siting next to sensitive areas include air, water, or land pollution; increasing pathways of human exposure to toxic substances; noise pollution; light pollution; increased traffic and pedestrian hazards; and urban heat island effects. Many of these impacts lead to serious health complications like asthma, cancer, reproductive harm, and more. Frontline communities—Black, Indigenous, Native, rural, low-income, and communities of color—often bear the brunt of industrial pollution. Children and the elderly are also at increased risk of experiencing negative health impacts from industrial pollution.

HB 3062 provides clear direction for municipalities and industries to address public health impacts on sensitive areas near industrial uses including hospitals, care facilities, and schools. This bill is a common-sense solution to fighting pollution and prioritizing impacted communities in the land use process. Incompatible zoning continually harms vulnerable Oregon communities, causing them to face disproportionate amounts of pollution and the accompanying

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health impacts. Often, their voices are left out of the public process, resulting in land use decisions that overlook impacts on communities most directly affected.

Oregon's current land use and environmental laws do not have a broad approach to incorporating responsive, proactive, offsite impacts analyses into the decision-making processes for industrial sites next to sensitive uses. HB 3062 will help bridge the gap in Oregon's land use decision-making processes. Although considering social and environmental impacts are already embedded into some aspects of our land use laws, it is merely a suggestion—not a requirement. This leads to inconsistent applications of health protections and is an outdated, reactive approach. The proposed legislation would create a process that would allow a city to responsibly determine where its industrial activities are sited, without putting overburdened communities at risk.

Economic growth should never come at the expense of community health. **We strongly urge you to pass and support HB 3062 to modernize our land use system and build a future where businesses and communities can thrive together.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Teryn Yazdani  
Staff Attorney