
February 20 , 2025

To: House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans

RE: HB 3062 (Healthy Communities Act)

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis and members of the committee,

My name is Ana Molina and I am the Advocacy and Systems Director at OJTA. OJTA represents over 20 frontline communities who experience climate change first and worst, including people with disabilities, rural families, people of color, and low-income Oregonians. I am testifying today in support of HB 3062 and its forthcoming amendments.

The Planning for Healthy Communities Act will help protect Oregon communities from the harmful impacts of industrial development near homes, schools, hospitals, and other sensitive locations such as homes, hospitals, care facilities or schools. Historically cities and counties have not had to consider the public health and environmental justice impacts of industrial siting decisions, which has created neighborhoods across the state where low income and black, indigenous and people of color had to bear the brunt of pollution, noise, traffic hazards, and environmental degradation while also experiencing the negative health impacts.

The concept combines technical and community input to quickly identify land use conflicts and possible impacts through early detection and intervention. The current reactive and complaint based system based on cities' off site impact codes puts an undue burden on communities with no promise of change. Taking a more proactive approach to create good faith relationships between communities and local government businesses, and regulating agencies can reduce conflict down the line for all parties. A principle of environmental justice demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias. This policy addresses this issue.

This bill will:

- Require local governments or industrial applicants to assess potential health and environmental justice impacts before approving industrial projects near sensitive areas.

- Ensure community members have a voice before the development of industrial uses through public hearings.
- Provide businesses and cities with clear, proactive guidelines to prevent harmful health and environmental impacts before they arise.
- Reduce costly legal battles and complaints by addressing concerns upfront.
- Align Oregon's land use planning with our environmental justice commitments to create healthier, more resilient communities.

Economic growth should not come at the expense of community health and well-being. By modernizing our land use planning system, HB 3062 will help Oregon build a future where both businesses and communities can thrive responsibly. I urge you to support this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ana Molina
Advocacy and Systems Director
Oregon Just Transition Alliance
Ana@OJTA.org