

Date: February 21, 2025

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

Subject: Support HB 3062 The Planning for Healthy Communities Act

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, and members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans, thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3062.

My name is Grace Rogers, and I am writing because I am a student in Salem who would like to see more protection from industrial development around school areas. I strongly support HB 3062, which will help protect Oregon communities from the harmful impacts of industrial development near homes, schools, hospitals, and other sensitive locations.

I am a college student studying in Salem, and I believe that all students should be able to pursue their education without the danger of the harmful effects nearby industrial development can cause. The lack of required consideration regarding public health or environmental justice impacts within siting decisions can lead to situations such as the development of the Covanta Marion incinerator close to Chemeketa Community College. HB 3062 will ensure safeguards for students like me who don't want to have their education interrupted by health problems caused by industry pollution.

Oregon's current land use system does not require cities and counties to consider the public health and environmental justice impacts of industrial siting decisions. This means that communities—especially those that are low-income or BIPOC—are often forced to live with pollution, noise, traffic hazards, and environmental degradation without having a say in the process. HB 3062 is a much-needed update that will bring **certainty, fairness, transparency, and public health** considerations into land use decision-making.

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 in the process through public hearings.
- 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,
Grace Rogers