



Testimony in Support of HB 3062 – The Healthy Communities Act

Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, and Members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans,

My name is Taren Evans, and I serve as the Environmental Justice Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC). CCC is an alliance of culturally-specific community based organizations located in the Portland metro area. CCC supports a collective racial justice effort to improve outcomes for communities of color through policy analysis and advocacy, environmental justice, and culturally-appropriate data and research in communities of color.

I am writing today to express my strong support for HB 3062, the Healthy Communities Act. Oregon's current land use system does not require cities or counties to evaluate the health and environmental impacts of industrial development when it is placed near homes, schools, hospitals, and care facilities. This gap in policy has disproportionately harmed communities of color, who are more likely to live near industrial facilities and experience the long-term health consequences of exposure to pollution, noise, and traffic hazards.

Research has consistently shown that Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and other communities of color are more likely to be exposed to air and water pollution due to the siting of industrial facilities near their neighborhoods. These environmental burdens contribute to higher rates of respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular disease, and other health issues. Despite these risks, there is currently no requirement for cities or developers to assess potential health impacts before approving new industrial projects.

HB 3062 provides a proactive solution by ensuring that local governments and industrial applicants assess potential public health risks before approving new industrial developments near sensitive areas. This bill will:

- Establish clear guidelines for cities and industry to evaluate health and environmental risks before development.
- Require early community engagement, so residents have a voice in the process.
- Reduce conflicts between industry and communities by identifying potential harms early and ensuring appropriate safeguards are in place.

Preventing harm through responsible planning is not about stopping economic growth—it is about ensuring that growth happens in a way that protects public health. HB 3062 will provide certainty for businesses, clarity for local governments, and essential protections for residents—particularly those who have historically been left out of land use decisions.

I urge you to pass HB 3062 and take this necessary step toward a healthier and more equitable Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Taren Evans
Environmental Justice Director
Coalition of Communities of Color