



April 1, 2025

House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 3062 - Support

Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 3062.

Central Oregon LandWatch is a land use and conservation advocacy organization that has proudly protected Central Oregon's forests, high deserts, rivers, wildlife, and vibrant communities for more than 35 years. The membership of Central Oregon LandWatch consists of farmers, ranchers, environmentalists, hunters, anglers, housing advocates, and community leaders. Our members share the belief that Oregon's land use system is fundamental to what makes this state such a special place to live.

LandWatch supports HB 3062. The bill would require local governments to undertake a simple mapping exercise to identify "sensitive uses" which are housing, parks, schools, childcare facilities, hospitals, and residential care facilities. When an industrial use is proposed within 1000 feet of one of these sensitive uses, the bill would require a collaborative process between the industrial applicant, the local government, and impacted communities to document anticipated public health impacts and protect against those impacts in order to limit public health impacts to sensitive uses using conditions of approval.

Land use planning is inextricably tied to public health outcomes. Many opposition comments to this bill claim that land use planning is not the proper process for protecting public health. Those comments ignore the foundations of land use planning – the very first zoning ordinances in our country were imposed in order to protect against negative health outcomes for people living near industry. *Village of Euclid v. Ambler Realty Co.*, 272 U.S. 365 (1926). Today, we have multitudes of data and analysis, from multiple disciplines, showing that public health outcomes are directly tied to proximity to environmental exposure. In other words, land use planning is directly responsible for public health outcomes. We also know today that BIPOC communities are twice as likely to be impacted by polluting facilities than white communities.¹ Clearly, we have an ongoing need to plan our communities for better public health outcomes.

¹ Mohai P, Lantz PM, Morenoff J, House JS, Mero RP. Racial and socioeconomic disparities in residential proximity to polluting industrial facilities: evidence from the Americans' Changing





2843 NW Lolo Drive, Ste. 200 | Bend, OR 97703

Phone (541) 647-2930

www.colw.org

HB 3062 helps both impacted communities and industrial users avoid costly conflicts by disclosing and planning to avoid conflicts before they occur. Achieving all of this – protection of public health and the prevention of conflict for industrial users – represents the very best type of land use planning.

The bill does not prohibit any industrial use allowed in the State of Oregon. It does not impact the supply of industrial-zoned lands, which must be provided by Oregon cities pursuant to statewide land use planning Goal 9. The bill simply requires disclosure of public health impacts and conditions of approval to limit those impacts' harm to sensitive uses.

LandWatch supports HB 3062 and we respectfully request this Committee vote to pass HB 3921 out of committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Regards,

Rory Isbell
Rural Lands Program Director & Staff Attorney
Central Oregon LandWatch

Lives Study. Am J Public Health. 2009 Nov;99 Suppl 3(Suppl 3):S649-56. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2007.131383. PMID: 19890171; PMCID: PMC2774179.



WE DEFEND AND PLAN FOR CENTRAL OREGON'S LIVABLE FUTURE