
April 3, 2025

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

RE: HB 3062 (Healthy Communities Act) -3 AMDT

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

My name is Jamie Pang, and I am the Director of Programs and Policy at Oregon Just Transition Alliance. OJTA represents over 20 frontline advocacy groups and their communities who experience climate change first and worst, including people with disabilities, rural families, people of color, and low-income Oregonians. We are reiterating our support for HB 3062 with the -3 amendment, which significantly narrows the bill to prohibiting the development of warehouses and distribution centers within 1000 feet of sensitive dwellings.

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 schools and nursing homes. Historically, cities and counties have not had to consider 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, heat islands, and environmental degradation while also experiencing the negative health impacts.

Warehouses are one of the fastest growing industries in the Nation. And cities like Portland are reported to give subsidies to major corporations like Amazon to open warehouses.¹ As such, requiring as a condition of a development permit for DEQ to do an impact assessment, takes 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- on a more focused scale to also serve as a means for a pilot project for Oregon for such community-oriented action.

¹ <https://www.oregonlive.com/business/2022/12/oregon-spends-millions-to-attract-warehouses-that-couldnt-go-anywhere-else.html>.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamie Pang
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