

Enrolled

Senate Concurrent Resolution 17

Sponsored by Senators DEMBROW, RILEY, GOLDEN, Representative POWER; Senators FREDERICK, GORSEK, JAMA, MANNING JR, Representatives ALONSO LEON, DEXTER, HELM, HUDSON, KROPF, LIVELY, MEEK, NERON, NOSSE, PHAM, REYNOLDS, SALINAS, SANCHEZ, WILDE, WILLIAMS (at the request of Beyond Toxics)

Whereas environmental and climate solutions must address structural socioeconomic inequalities built by a history of economic and social inequality, whether intentional or unintentional; and

Whereas environmental justice prioritizes impacted and traditionally underrepresented communities and embraces the principle that all people and communities have the right to equal protection and equal enforcement of environmental laws and regulations; and

Whereas frontline communities are Black, Native American, Indigenous and People of Color communities and immigrant and low-income communities that historically and presently experience the brunt of health, economic and ecological impacts and have been made more vulnerable to the consequences of climate change because of these factors; and

Whereas a legacy of segregation, economic exclusion and historically biased zoning codes and planning laws have concentrated toxic polluters and environmental hazards near and within frontline communities; and

Whereas disparate and cumulative exposures to environmental pollution contribute to health and financial inequities in frontline communities, resulting in increased illness and mortality and decreased economic security; and

Whereas frontline communities are both urban and rural communities, and rural communities experience specific environmental justice hazards, including increased risk of wildfire, limited access to water and inadequate infrastructure; and

Whereas the futures of essential workers, our youth and low-income and vulnerable rural and urban communities are at risk of irreparable harm from the consequences of climate change impacts, natural disasters and disruptions and public health crises; and

Whereas water is life, access to clean water is a basic human right and Oregon communities are facing water crises and resultant health impacts due to decaying and outdated infrastructure, environmental degradation and a changing climate; and

Whereas environmental justice requires a regenerative economy based on ecological integrity and restoration, community health protections, equitable partnerships, social justice and full and fair participatory processes; and

Whereas Oregon embraces environmental justice policies built upon a Just Transition framework to ensure that all communities benefit as Oregon transitions from a fossil fuel-based economy toward a regenerative economy in which all Oregonians have full access to renewable energy, non-polluting transportation systems, clean air and water, valued jobs and healthy living environments; and

Whereas frontline communities historically have been excluded from the policy and funding decision-making process, and Oregon therefore must prioritize and empower these communities as valuable and equal decision-making partners in generating durable, creative and equitable policies to promote environmental justice and respond effectively to climate change; and

Whereas Oregon must guarantee the basic human right to healthy food and must direct appropriate levels of funding to support and expand ecologically sound food production methods; and

Whereas Oregon's leaders recognize and respect that traditional ecological knowledge systems have been carried by Native American and other indigenous peoples for countless generations and

must invite leaders holding this knowledge to participate in planning sustainable land management practices; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That, in recognition of ORS 182.545 and the responsibilities of state agencies to provide greater public participation to ensure that all persons affected by decisions of natural resource agencies have a voice in those decisions, we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, declare our intent that ORS 182.545 shall apply to all state agencies and all policy decisions; and be it further

Resolved, That all state agencies are responsible to respond to the health, environmental, economic and climate crises we face, and are accountable to build a just, equitable and resilient future to secure health and well-being for all people; and be it further

Resolved, That state agencies will develop guidance for the consideration of environmental justice in implementing their statutory and regulatory responsibilities and will consult with the Environmental Justice Task Force to ensure that actions are taken to correct environmental injustices and improve public health and overall well-being of all communities; and be it further

Resolved, That Oregon will make reparative investments in frontline communities and direct state resources to ensure that policies and processes are focused on building systems for healthy food, renewable energy infrastructure, clean air and water, good jobs with a family-sustaining wage and a range of workforce services and skills training; and be it further

Resolved, That state agencies shall recognize that environmental justice encompasses challenges and solutions that are shared across urban and rural frontline communities, work to enact environmental policies that recognize the need to rebuild our communities and provide fair access for all to the full range of resources and build relationships in communities across this state to achieve collaborative solutions; and be it further

Resolved, That Oregon will address environmental pollution on the basis of the right of all people to clean air, safe and affordable drinking water and protection from climate hazards and the sustainable preservation of ecological integrity and the aesthetic, scientific, cultural and historical values of the natural environment; and be it further

Resolved, That Oregon will make investments in watershed protection and water infrastructure to safeguard the water on which we currently depend; and be it further

Resolved, That a regenerative economy in Oregon will be based on community health protection, respect for traditional ecological knowledge systems and the full and fair participation of Black, Native American, Indigenous and People of Color communities, essential workers, youth, low-income people and those who are most vulnerable in rural and urban communities.

Adopted by Senate April 8, 2021

Readopted by Senate June 9, 2021

Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Adopted by House June 7, 2021

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House