

Senate Concurrent Resolution 17

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

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes environmental justice framework of principles for State of Oregon.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas environmental and climate solutions must address structural socioeconomic inequalities
3 built by a history of economic and social inequality, whether intentional or unintentional; and

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

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

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

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

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

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21 are facing water crises and resultant health impacts due to decaying and outdated infrastructure,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

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

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

31 Whereas frontline communities historically have been excluded from the policy and funding

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 decision-making process, and Oregon therefore must prioritize and empower these communities as
 2 valuable and equal decision-making partners in generating durable, creative and equitable policies
 3 to promote environmental justice and respond effectively to climate change; and

4 Whereas Oregon must guarantee the basic human right to healthy food and must direct appro-
 5 priate levels of funding to support and expand ecologically sound food production methods; and

6 Whereas Oregon's leaders recognize and respect that traditional ecological knowledge systems
 7 have been carried by Native American and other indigenous peoples for countless generations and
 8 must invite leaders holding this knowledge to participate in planning sustainable land management
 9 practices; now, therefore,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37