



Date: 03/03/2021

Dear Chair Leo Beyer and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Madelyn Belden. I am a student at Portland State University and a legislative fellow for Our Climate Oregon. I am writing to request your support for SB 289.

Ensuring Oregon inhabitants are able to access and thrive in outdoor spaces is essential to providing just and equitable spaces for LGBTQ+, low-income, and BIPOC communities. These demographics are the most likely to suffer at the hands of bias crimes on public lands and fear physical and emotional harm in the outdoors. Though Oregon is considered an environmental leader, its reputation as a white-only state and ingrained white supremacist history continue to perpetuate bias crimes that inhibit access to the outdoors. Without access to natural spaces, excluded populations are unable to reap the benefits to their mental and physical health. SB 289 seeks to resolve these disparities.

SB 289 takes a number of important steps, including requiring inter-agency communication on bias crimes, setting a standard for how state agencies address bias crimes, adds bias crimes as a determinant in revoking and denying licenses, defines the appropriate removal of privileges from perpetrators, and enables the convicted perpetrator to engage in restorative justice.

Thank you for the opportunity to urge yes on SB 289.

Madelyn Belden

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