

Dear Chair Power, Vice-Chairs Bonham and Sollman, and Members of the House Energy & Environment Committee,

Please support HB 2488—Equity and Climate in Land Use, to ensure that Oregon’s land use planning system includes a comprehensive approach to addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation, equity, hazard risk reduction and environmental justice.

Oregon’s land use planning system is established, responsible and deliberate with an excellent track record of effectiveness. However, it has not been updated in keeping with changes in economics, environment, technology and social justice. A single new statewide land use planning goal—Goal 20—would ensure that climate, equity and environmental justice are addressed in our statewide land use planning decisions.

Additionally, to address racial, social and socioeconomic inequities (particularly for rural populations) the participation and inclusion of input from impacted populations must be incorporated into the planning and implementation processes. Citizens are best able to state what works and does not work for those living in our communities.

I also urge the members of the House Energy and Environment Committee to indicate their support for the recommended budget of \$800,000 to both initiate and finish the adoption of a new Goal 20 for Equity and Climate in this biennium. There is positive forward movement in securing funding in that the Department of Land Conservation and Development included \$800,000 in Package 90 for Equity Initiatives as part of their proposed agency budget (see SB 5530). In addition, in order to provide adequate technical assistance to underserved rural communities and smaller cities and counties, a recommendation from the House Energy and Environment Committee for additional funding allocations would be appreciated.

Thank you for considering my advocacy to update and support goal 20 to benefit the citizens of Oregon.

Ann L Lovejoy