

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Helm and Smith, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and the Environment, I am in favor of HB 2488 to move forward long-needed reforms to our statewide land use planning goals. If our State is to adequately confront the 21st Century challenges presented by the climate crisis and systemic environmental racism, we need a 21st Century planning system that is up to the task. For that reason, I urge you to support HB 2488—Equity and Climate in Land Use, to ensure that Oregon's land use planning system includes a comprehensive and well-rounded approach to addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation, equity, hazard risk reduction and environmental justice.

Oregon's land use planning system has long been a model for responsible and deliberate land use planning. However, it fails to explicitly consider climate change within any of the 19 statewide land use planning goals. 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.

We must address the inequities of our current land use plans. The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed so many threats to the welfare and health of BIPOC communities, low income groups and others. It is definitely time to actually view our needs through an equity lens as the rhetoric has claimed. Thanks.

Sincerely,  
Alice Shapiro  
Portland, OR