

House Committee on Energy and Environment
Committee Chair, Vice Chairs and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB 2488 and testifying as a decades long participant in rural land use issues. The concepts of both equity and climate have been missing from our land use laws and context for decision making over the years. In my particular area equity may not have been as important as in many other areas of the state but climate has been. I read just today that ground based traffic is the largest single contributor to Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in the state. The endless and ridiculous, in my opinion, proliferation of non farm land uses on EFU/farmland have led to ever increasing and unnecessary driving. If these many uses were required to be located in towns people could walk, bike or take public transportation (depending on the town or city). The towns, many of which struggle to survive, would be overjoyed to have the businesses there. Many more people could easily patronize those businesses who might not have access, or easy access, when they are strewn about the countryside. Farmers and forestland owners would be happy to have less traffic on rural roads often used by machinery.

This factor alone would make a good contribution to our state's sincere efforts to reduce our GHG emissions in the hope of having an abundant, livable state for future generations. Please support HB 2488.

Sincerely,
Sarah Deumling