



The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 101-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

March 8, 2021

To: [House Committee on Energy and Environment](#)
Rep. Pam Marsh, Chair
Rep. Ken Helm and Rep. David Brock Smith, Vice Chairs
Members of the Committee

Re: **HB 2488 – Adding Climate Goal and Addressing Environmental Justice in Land Use – Support with Amendments**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon first studied land use in 1959 and has been active since in supporting our statewide land use planning program with local implementation. We believe that Goal 1 requires open access to the land use process and that all residents have a stake in the development of their communities. **As we plan our cities and counties, we are deciding where we will all live, work, shop, play and how we'll get there.**

The League believes that our statewide program is critical to the health and wellbeing of Oregonians. Planning determines what kind of infrastructure communities will need. It helps assure our natural areas are protected, addresses natural hazards and that we have not only economically vital agricultural and forest lands, but lands for other industrial uses.

However, **it is time to clearly address the existential threats of our time: our changing climate and injustice around disadvantaged communities.** When the land use program was created in 1973, there were 10 interim Goals listed. As part of the process for final adoption, the Goals were taken out to the people of Oregon where they added Goals 11-14. Goal 15, the Willamette River Greenway, was added a year later and the four Coastal Goals, 16-19, were folded into the program from a separate program thereafter. Here is a [link](#) to the Goals and the program's history.

It is time to go back to the people to ask that they consider a Goal 20: Climate. The goal is intended to address climate change responses, climate justice, equity and environmental justice related to the other 19 Goals. HB 2488, with proposed amendments, provides a pathway and proposes funding (currently in the Governor's budget for DLCD) for this important task. The Land Conservation and Development Commission has recently created two separate rules advisory committees: one to propose rules to implement HB 2001 and 2003 (2019); the other to develop rules around Climate Friendly Communities. In both cases these advisory committee appointments have been among the most diverse and inclusive in the many years of the program. We expect the same to be true with the process to implement HB 2488.

In DLCD's budget hearing (SB 5530 Feb. 22, 2021), the League provided the following testimony:

Lastly, we are intrigued by POP 90 and can support the \$800,000 investment proposed by the Governor. We believe that the money will begin the work of linking climate change strategies and adding equity to the current 19 Goals. One of the bills the legislature may consider is HB 2488 with a -1 amendment that adds clarity and focus to this work. This bill would create a process to add a Goal 20 on Climate that would require consideration of climate change when implementing the other

19 Goals. Changes to Goals or a new Goal requires rigorous public outreach throughout the state. And Goals are really “rules” to DLCD, so an inclusive rulemaking committee will be needed as well. We appreciate the Governor’s commitment to addressing climate change in all state agencies and linking this issue to our statewide land use planning program.

We acknowledge the work of the many diverse advocacy groups who brought you this bill and the proposed amendments. This work is a sample of the work needed to assure this project moves forward with diverse voices and successfully adds another state tool in our toolbox for addressing those two threats: our changing climate and environmental injustice.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation. We encourage your support for HB 2488 with the advocates’ proposed amendment.



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