

March, 7, 2021

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Helm and Smith, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and the Environment,

Now is the time to move forward long-needed reforms to our statewide land use planning goals.

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 rounded approach to addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation, equity, hazard risk reduction and environmental justice.

In the 70’s Oregon was known for its state of the art Land use planning laws. Step up to the plate now and update our laws. Racism, whether to people of color and/or our Native American peoples, needs to be addressed in a positive way. HB 2488 does this.

I also urge the members of the House Committee on Energy and the Environment 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.

HB 2488 will guarantee climate and equity-responsive land use planning by Oregon’s local governments and ensure that Oregon is prepared for the unique challenges of this century.

Thank you.

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