

Re: HB 2488

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

I urge you to support HB 2488 — Equity and Climate in Land Use. We are facing the need for updating Oregon's land use planning system and the truly existential threat of Climate Change which this bill addresses as an often overlooked aspect of the system: That we employ equity, hazard risk reduction and environmental justice when adjusting existing or creating new land use laws. Oregon has long been a model for responsible and deliberate land use planning. It is time to include climate change within 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.

According to the U.S Global Change Research Program's Second State of the Carbon Cycle Report (2018), 'Emissions from the urban built environment are directly shaped by societal factors, including regulations and policies governing land use, technologies such as transportation, and indirect factors such as demands for good and services produced outside city boundaries.'

I also urge the members of the House Energy and Environment Committee to indicate their support for the recommended budget of \$800,00 both to initiate and finish the adoption of the new Goal 20 for Equity and Climate in this biennium.

I understand that wealthy members of our society acquire housing and land ownership in some of the best locations, safest districts or areas, and are allowed to develop projects on the land that somehow are not available to less affluent. 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. Hand in hand with this is the need for public education. I also have concerns about corporations leaving toxic land behind where only the poorest residents would be willing to live there. More needs to be done in making entities, whether individual or corporations, clean up their mess before it is opened to housing. If government spending is used on toxic cleanup of land, then market prices should not prevail when opening the renovated land comes up for housing projects.