



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Innovation. Collaboration. Practical Solutions.

March 8, 2021

House Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court Street NE, Salem Oregon 97301

RE: HB2488 – Climate Justice Statewide Planning Goal

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee:

The City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability supports incorporating climate justice into Oregon’s statewide planning goals.

In Portland, we’ve been addressing climate-related issues for over 25 years. We were the first U.S. city to adopt a strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in 1993. We have a legacy of climate-friendly programs targeting transportation, energy, land use, and waste prevention and recycling, which has led to a steady decrease in carbon emissions while our economy and population has grown.

But while we might be making progress on the climate, our climate work has neglected our communities of color, who are on the frontlines and experiencing the most harmful effects of climate change. These communities face disproportionate climate impacts that take a real toll on their families and communities. They disproportionately experience the negative health effects of dangerously poor air quality, urban heat islands, and unsafe transportation connections.

In the face of our global climate emergency, we support incorporating climate change adaptation and mitigation and environmental justice into our statewide planning goals. We need to do things differently if we want to avoid the mistakes of the past. We need to change the status quo and ask different questions to create greater justice and equity for disadvantaged communities alongside the shift to a low-carbon, green economy.

Sincerely,

Andrea Durbin, Director

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