

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

As a former county commissioner for eight years on the north Oregon coast and a twenty-five year former planning commissioner, I know it is time to move forward with long-needed reforms to our statewide land use planning goals. I am proud to say the last motion I made before leaving office in January, was to adopt the first climate change Resolution and Order in Clatsop County. As a global community we have been looking at the dire impacts of climate change for 20 years. This is not new science or new thinking. It has taken too long for us to begin concrete actions. It is irresponsible to deny responsibility or to look to other states, other countries for actions to solve the climate crisis. It is imperative for each community to put into action the language, goals, ordinances and measures necessary to address climate change.

If our state is to adequately confront the 21st Century challenges presented by the climate crisis and systemic environmental racism, then 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. However, it fails to explicitly consider climate change within any of 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. Local governments have been and are currently making critical decisions regarding comprehensive plans, urban growth boundaries, and urban and rural reserves without sufficient consideration (if any) of either the projected climate impacts of land use decisions within their jurisdiction or whether these decisions will help achieve Oregon's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. 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 goods and services produced outside city boundaries.'

I strongly support the passage of HB 2488 to update Oregon's Land Use Planning System to address climate change, environmental justice and equity in the planning system in a holistic and integrated manner, which is the only way to prevent climate responses from reinforcing existing inequities. 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).

Thank you for considering my comments and creating an equitable and climate-smart future for Oregon.

Sincerely,
Sarah Nebeker