



3-8-2021

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

I am writing on behalf of the *Tikkun olam* committee of congregation P'nai Or of Portland Oregon, in **support of HB2488, Equity and Climate in Land Use.**

Tikkun Olam are Hebrew words that mean *Repair of The World*. HB2488 embodies so much of the work that our committee is engaged in: social justice, climate justice, advancing strategies for the healing of our planet including the millions of species that are threatened with extinction, and giving our children and grandchildren the legacy of a thriving, healthy, just world.

HB2488, will lift up land-use as critical for equity, environmental justice, & climate smart urban planning, and carbon sequestration, key solutions for global warming.

Oregon's land use planning has long been a model of deliberate and responsible stewardship. However it has fallen short in failing to explicitly reference climate change within any of the 19 planning goals. HB2488 introduces Goal 20, which would ensure that climate, equity, and environmental justice are addressed in our statewide land use planning decisions.

Carbon sequestration in Oregon Forests, particularly Old Growth and mature forests, and through regenerative agricultural practices are some of the greatest resources that Oregon can offer in this crisis. Urban governments must similarly integrate climate mitigation planning and environmental justice into our long and short-range planning.

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, that the Department of Land Conservation and Development included in Package 90 for Equity Initiatives as part of their proposed agency budget.

Thank you for your work to create a climate smart, equitable future for Oregon. Your support for HB2488 is critical in helping to move us toward these goals.

Sincerely,

Harriet Cooke, MD, MPH and the *P'nai Or Tikkun Olam* Committee