

I am submitting testimony today, on International Women's Day, on behalf of all the underrepresented women who could not submit testimony today whether it be because of job constraints, childcare, or another reason. The fact that this hearing is at 1 pm on a Monday, with the chance of this bill not being discussed until at least 1:30, highlights the importance of this bill in creating a new statewide land use planning goal specific for climate change and environmental justice. The pandemic has showcased how our underserved communities, who are disproportionately BIPOC, are left out of major land use decisions that directly affect their health, their families health, and their public health, even in a state that's considered as progressive as Oregon. Hindsight is 2020 but it is our responsibility to act now. Now is the time to move forward long-needed reforms to our statewide land use planning goals. 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. This includes mapping impacts of planning and public health decisions, especially as they relate to environmental justice (EJ) communities which again-- are disproportionately BIPOC-- and establishing a rule-making committee that requires the participation of tribal and those from EJ communities that face these barriers everyday. 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. This is the only way we'll achieve climate and environmental justice for all Oregonians.