

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

My name is Kelsey Zlevor, and I am a Sustainability Commissioner with the City of Eugene Sustainability Commission, a graduate of the University of Oregon's Community and Regional Planning Master's Program, and a current land use planner at Cameron McCarthy Landscape Architecture and Planning in Eugene. As a young person working in land use for the last five years, I am writing to 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.

While Oregon's land use planning system has long been a model for deliberate land use planning, it fails to explicitly consider climate change and Oregon's history of white supremacy and colonization within any of the 19 statewide land use planning goals. A new statewide land use planning goal—Goal 20—would ensure that climate, equity, and environmental justice are addressed in our land use planning decisions as a beginning to addressing a harmful past. Not only is this an important message to send, it is a critical way of approaching our land use system that can no longer be ignored.

Local governments are at the forefront of making critical land use decisions 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. Further, the climate crisis does not exist in a vacuum: it is both a product of and exacerbates existing racial, social and socioeconomic inequities. Oregon's Native American governments and tribal communities, Black, Latinx and other people of color, as well as low income and under-resourced rural communities, have told us time and again that our current planning system simply does not serve them. As I have seen in my own work, diverse and equitable consultation and inclusion in land use decision-making processes is often inadequate and insufficient in scope due to lack of prioritized funds, cultural awareness, and political will.

I therefore 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 in order to send a strong and clear message that addressing climate, racial, and class inequities is a state and local priority.

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. 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.

Thank you for considering my comments and charting a new path for an equitable and climate-smart Oregon that our children will be proud of.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Zlevor, MCRP '16
Planner
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