

### 3/8 – 1 pm - House Bill 2488 House Committee on Energy and Environment

I strongly oppose House Bill 2488; as written, in that the Legislative Assembly, “SECTION 2: 1(a) require only a single public hearing before adoption, and (d) must be completed by December 31, 2026”. A single public hearing; “will not even scratch the surface for requests to publicly testify on the Climate Study issued by LCDC”. Second, the study start date is July 1, 2021, delineates reporting yearly to the Legislative Assembly with final report due December 31, 2026 = 5.5 years.

LCDC estimated what the study would cost, and that was before the wildfires with a 48 member Advisory Board, Five POPs Costs Estimates (reference below), with a cost report due by May 15, 2020. Four months before the major wind event that caused the wildfires that were actively burning to become firestorms. Although HB 2488 did indicate that general funds would be available through other agencies it is impossible for citizens to know these companion Bills.

LCDC estimated study costs of \$13,434,000, what part of LCDC ordered measure by Governor Browns Executive Order 20-04 is the House Bill 2488 going to address of the five POPs by LCDC with an appropriation to the Department of Land Conservation and Development, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$850,000, for deposit into the Climate Justice Planning Goals Fund under section 8 of this 2021 Act.

Leaves a shortage of LCDC study estimate cost with \$12,584,000 unfunded, “throwing good money after bad”? Legislative Assembly below is the Five POPs will the \$850,000 be appropriated to? HB 2488 has 64 measurable points and probably ten times that many rabbit holes of legislation to swim through - Oregon Revised Statutes, with many players – federal, state, county, city, and private industry. What area is the money being spent? What land area will DCLC investigate; the boundary of the Metropolitan Service District, the entire State, Counties and/or Cities Boundaries in this HB 2488 study? Sounds like a herculean task, which might scratch the back hair of a bumble bee for.

Studies are just a distraction and a delay of Legislative Action in resolving poverty, housing affordability, homelessness, alcohol and drug abuse and addictions. Simply put the Legislative Assembly priorities are disingenuous attempt to detract and put-off solutions for 1 to 5+ years or more.

Alternately, the Climate Fund Study will become ‘sunk cost fallacy’ the idea that a company or organization is more likely to continue with a project if they have already invested a lot of money, time, or effort in it, even when continuing is not the best thing to do: Cambridge Dictionary – Economics and Management *Economists would point out that the sunk cost fallacy is irrational, and could be described as “throwing good money after bad”.*<sup>1</sup>

5.5 years > or <, for study, really? Although Legislative Assembly declaring Emergency so will take effect upon passage, what the hell, for 50+ years Oregon Legislators have for years shuffled the disparities of Oregonians exposed to pollution to the low priority category. Studies are just a distraction and a delay of Legislative Action in resolving healthier neighborhoods, poverty, housing affordability, and homelessness. Simply put the Legislative Assembly priorities are disingenuous attempt to detract and put-off solutions instead of just getting the job done instead quote-unquote “study” the problem for another 1 to 5+ years or more. There is data up the wazoo on the pollution issue, an Auditor 1 could pull it together, but instead the Legislature chooses to spend millions to study what has already been studied, what’s up with that?

1. Policy Option Package #1 – Housing This 2021-23 POP proposes to continue funding six positions to support implementation of HBs 2001 (missing middle housing) and 2003 (housing production strategies and housing needs analyses) at the local level. In addition to work on HBs 2001 and 2003, this staff would work with LCDC transportation planning staff and local governments to implement climate-supportive land use strategies in urban areas. Most of the funding in this POP would provide technical assistance funding for local governments. Total cost of this POP for staff and technical assistance funds is approximately \$6.5M (General Fund).
2. Policy Option Package #2 – Climate Change Adaptation This 2021-23 POP would fund two positions to implement the 25-agency 2020 Climate Change Adaptation Framework. Using the multiagency leadership structure recommended in the Framework, the positions will provide a venue for state agencies to work cooperatively to recommend climate change adaptation priorities, adjust programs to eliminate duplication, leverage adaptation efforts, provide technical assistance to local government, and address the needs of traditionally marginalized communities. Staff also would coordinate with other agencies to conduct an integrated, statewide, vulnerability analysis to identify specific geographic areas, populations, or sectors that are most susceptible to climate change related impacts. This information would enable policymakers and agencies to better prioritize limited resources based on threats to natural resources, places, businesses, and people with greatest need. Results from the vulnerability assessment also would be used to support LCDC’s Natural Hazards Mitigation Program. Total cost of this POP would be approximately \$734,000 (General Fund).
3. Policy Option Package #3 – Greenhouse Gas Reductions This 2021-23 POP would fund approximately two positions to develop rules relating to land use and transportation planning as directed by the Governor Brown’s Executive Order 20-04 and consistent with the Statewide Transportation Strategy Multi-Agency Implementation Work Plan. The purpose of these rules would be reduce vehicle miles travelled per capita, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector. These positions would be focused on assisting local governments and MPOs with scenario planning and implementation of rules related to parking, housing and transportation planning. Most of the funding in this POP would be distributed as technical assistance funding for local governments and MPOs. Total costs of this POP would be approximately \$5,000,000 (General Fund).
4. Policy Option Package #4 – Wildfires This 2021-23 POP would fund one permanent position to work with Oregon Department of Forestry, other agencies and a stakeholder policy committee on how best to implement the wildfire mapping and land use recommendations of the Governor’s 2019 Council on Wildfire Response at the statewide and local levels. This work is critical given the expected increase in the duration and intensity of Oregon’s wildfire season due to our changing climate. LCDC would submit a legislative report no later than Feb. 1, 2023, including any statutory and budgetary changes needed to support state and local wildfire reduction programs. Funding for professional facilitation and data collection / analysis is also included. Total cost of this POP would be approximately \$500,000 (General Fund).
5. Policy Option Package #5 – Resiliency / Natural Hazards This 2021-23 POP would provide additional capacity to assist local governments to prepare for natural hazards expected to increase with the changing climate and reduce the state’s dependence on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants. Under FEMA grants, planning for natural hazards mitigation is limited to specific natural hazards and / or locations. With this POP, local governments would receive additional services and support to plan for natural hazards and increase their resiliency to economic and natural hazard impacts. This work is important given the expected increase in the frequency and intensity of natural hazards, particularly flooding and wildfires. The POP calls for two permanent positions and a local government technical assistance fund. Total cost of this POP would be approximately \$600,000 – \$700,000 (General Fund).<sup>ii</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/sunk-cost-fallacy>

<sup>ii</sup> [EO Section 3 Response Due May 15 \(oregon.gov\)](#)