

Testimony: Oregon Climate Agriculture Network (OrCAN) - HB 2488 – 1 (Amended Version):
Climate Change, Land Use Planning and Climate Equity for Disadvantaged Communities

Introduction

Oregon Climate Agriculture Network (OrCAN) wishes to express its support for passage of HB 2488 – 1 (as amended). Our mission is to advance farm-based solutions for climate resilience and to protect and enhance the natural resources that support Oregon agriculture including healthy soils and water resources. OrCAN also strives to support the farmers, ranchers and other workers that are the foundation of agriculture through collaborative, inclusive, producer driven networks, education programs and engagement in policy issues.

OrCAN's perspective on HB2488-1 is that the future of agriculture depends on collectively addressing the challenges that climate change poses to the environment and to the well-being of Oregon's citizens in both urban and rural Oregon. Land use planning and preservation of farm and forest lands is an important part of this. Also, it is important to that all people, including who are disadvantaged and/or underserved have opportunities to participate, meaningfully engage in affect land use and climate related decisions that would impact them.

Testimony

OrCAN supports the proposed amended legislation's direction to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) to develop a single new Land Use Planning Goal 20 to focus on the intersection of climate change with Oregon's land use planning program, and to address impacts of land use planning decisions on disadvantaged communities. This includes ensuring the opportunity for these communities to engage in and affect land use decision decisions. .

OrCAN is pleased to see that HB 2488-1 focuses on the GHG impacts of comprehensive plan level land use decision's including UGB amendments and that it requires local governments to address the GHG impacts of the same. Oregon's land use planning program has been successful relative to other many other states in preventing the conversion of farm and forest lands to non-resource uses. This has been, and still is, essential to prevent the increase of GHG caused by expansion of urban uses and to preserve the' carbon sequestration potential farm, forest and rangelands.

OrCAN also supports the following amendments to the original bill for administrative clarity and to also aid less well-resourced jurisdictions to meet the new land use planning goal.

?An implementation schedule that provides timeframes that informs the various sized jurisdictions throughout the state when they are to meet the requirements of the new goal.

?An opportunity for a time extension to comply with the new Goal 20.

?An exception process for Goal 20 compliance in matters of public health, safety, federal and state law.

?Requirements for coordinating agreements between DLCD and other state agencies to support implementation of the new Goal 20.

?A provision for funding.

?A climate justice planning fund and that these monies are prioritized for less well-resourced jurisdictions.

?Technical assistance which will prioritized for less-well resource jurisdictions and which will be regionally distributed throughout the state.