

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

The State of Oregon has an opportunity to address the climate crisis and systematic environmental injustices by supporting HB 2488- the Equity and Climate in Land Use bill with its amendments. We must update Oregon's land use planning system for the 21st century in order to prepare, to mitigate and to adapt to conditions already occurring due to climate change. Our laws need to reflect the reality of how land use laws do affect the residents of neighborhoods and workers on the job. How will we incorporate equity, hazard risk reduction and environmental justice? HB 2488 addresses these concerns.

I served four years as a Clatsop County Commissioner from 2017-2020. Clatsop County is currently updating our comprehensive land use plan. A single new statewide land use planning goal- Goal 20- would clarify, motivate and assist our county's advisory committees made up of local residents doing this necessary work on our comprehensive plan.

Oregon is a leader in the nation for its responsible and deliberate land use planning. We need to continue our leadership role by clearly acknowledging the effects of the climate crisis and environmental injustices. Oregon land use laws written 50 years ago must be updated.

We need to work toward environmental justice for all Oregon residents no matter their income or circumstances. Let's stop the pretending all is well, all is fair. Let's think about the young people looking at the world they will inherit. This is your opportunity as decision makers to guide us toward a more equitable and just future.

Clatsop County is a county bordered by the mighty Columbia River which is a major transportation route as well as home breeding ground to our iconic salmon. Our coastal towns with the Pacific Ocean as their front yard are already dealing with rising ocean levels and intense storm systems. The warming and acidification of ocean waters already affect our fishing, crabbing, and oyster industries, along with the accompanying marine industries that play an important part of our economy. The reality of shorter and delayed seasons are already playing out.

Clatsop County has an important timber industry and in 2020 narrowly escaped the catastrophic wildfires that struck elsewhere on the coast. Our coastal forests are thirsty. Stressed trees are vulnerable to infestations of insects and disease, look at what is happening in particular in the Tillamook forest lands. By acknowledging reality in our laws, we will together find the solutions for the challenges now and into the future.

Thank you for your consideration of supporting HB2488.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sullivan