

3-18-21 Testimony SCR 17 Equity and Climate in Land Use
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Thank you Chair Beyer, Vice-chair Findley, and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 17, the Joint Resolution to clearly establish the guiding principles for our state as we move forward into a future of climate change, out from a past that has been defined in large part, by the exploitation of people and earth. Our history has brought us to this climate crisis and the tragic reality of toxic harm and disregard to low income and BIPOC communities.

SCR 17 seeks to begin to redress these harms by specifying the values and principles by which our state is determined to move forward.

The Principles outlined in this resolution are principles that identify the interconnectedness of land and people and the equal value of health and wellbeing for all people and the land, on a path guided BY all people. These are principles that will define our State as we move forward in the monumental task of environmental healing and accommodation that is essential in this era of climate change.

SCR 17 will help align the equity goals throughout the legislative and administrative branches of government, to build a just, equitable, and resilient future for all Oregonians.

Thank you for moving this powerful resolution forward,
Sincerely,
Harriet Cooke MD, MPH
Member of congregations P'nai Or of Portland and Havurah Shalom,
and co-lead of our climate action teams
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