

Chair Smith Warner and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Danielle Maillard and I am a climate justice organizer with Sunrise PDX in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to request your support for HB 2337.

HB 2337 acknowledges that Oregon's founding as a state was rooted in racist ideals, and the policies that were historically enacted to disenfranchise people continue to play a part in the everyday lives of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) Oregonians. As a climate organizer, I see how undeniably clear it is that BIPOC Oregonians are on the frontlines of the climate crisis and are the first to experience the environmental injustices that occur in our state and nation. Climate justice work is racial justice work, and racism is an incredibly visible public health crisis that needs to be addressed right now.

By expanding and supporting the collection of REAL-D data, meaningfully investing in community engagement through the prioritization of racial affinity groups, and removing barriers to increase quality of care in BIPOC communities, we as a society can take a huge step towards liberation for those who are underserved and left out of present-day policies and systems.

Racism causes harm, trauma, illness, and death to Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) Oregonians. This bill signals the need for accelerated, intentional actions to heal these injustices and articulates six initial strategies and investments to address health inequities. I stand with the Oregon Health Equity Task Force in its efforts to dismantle racism and systematize anti-racist policies at the intersections where racism persists, and I urge you to make a difference for Oregonians by supporting HB 2337.

Sincerely,
Danielle Maillard
Sunrise PDX