

Dear Chair Marsh, and Vice-Chairs Helm and Brock Smith, and committee members,
I name is Dr. Harriet Cooke, and am writing in STRONG support of HB2488-2, a bill whose time is now, and the first bill I can actually say makes my heart sing (rather than my head hurt). HB2488-2 is our first Land Use bill to name and set the clear goal for our State to move forward, determined to recognize both climate change & equity issues. By clearly naming equity issues, concerns, and inclusion to our path forward, we help to heal our State's history of discrimination and oppression, while caring for all of those impacted by the environmental and economic issues of our times.

This bill gives me the hope I need for future generations, your children and grand-children and mine, that they will inherit a world that is so determined to be compassionate and intelligent and just, that we have written these priorities into our laws.

I could go on about the specifics of this bill, and how it is critical that it includes specific measures of climate change, emissions, and sequestration goals; and that it ensures that disadvantaged groups have a seat at the land-use planning table; and that it adopts clear practices to ensure environmental justice and equity in decision making, but I will leave the specifics to the organizations that have developed this bill, and simply be a triple exclamation mark behind the specific recommendations of Beyond Toxics and NAACP of Eugene,OR.

Thank you for all of your work in this bill-packed, Covid impacted, climate and economically critical time. Please move this bill out of committee ASAP, so that we can support and celebrate it's passage this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Harriet Cooke, MD, MPH and the P'nai Or Tikkun Olam (repair of the world) Committee.