

March 29, 2021

Re: Support of HB 2488-2

Dear House Committee On Energy and Environment:

My name is Ann Kendellen. I live in Portland, where my husband and I raised our two now-adult children. I spent ten years of my education career tutoring children in Title 1 schools as a literacy instructor with the Portland Reading Foundation (now called Reading Results).

I am writing in support of HB 2488-2, creating a new Goal 20 directing local governments to address climate change, seek environmental justice, and ensure that underserved populations can equitably participate in land use decisions.

In the years when I tutored in Portland Public Schools, most of my students were Black, from immigrant families, or People of Color. Some lived adjacent to industrial sites - neighborhoods more negatively impacted by pollution and land use decisions. This impacts family health and in turn, learning. For communities across Oregon to thrive, it is critical that everyone be informed and encouraged to participate. We cannot make and implement the best possible decisions when under-served but highly impacted populations are left out of the planning discussions.

Successfully mitigating the impacts of climate change, from reducing greenhouse gas to planning for the appropriate placement of secure housing, adequate farmlands, and industrial sites, requires us to be pro-active in including all populations. Most especially, we must work with those deeply affected by the decisions, who too often have not been given a voice at the table.

With the passage of HB 2488-2, Oregon will demonstrate a just position that truly supports the entirety of its population, moving us together into a more sustainable future. This is our opportunity to unite and make our state stronger, cleaner, and safer for all.

Please vote HB 2488-2 out of committee with a do-pass recommendation.

Thank you,

Ann Kendellen