

Dear members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment,

I write in strong support of HB 2488 to lay the groundwork for smart, sustainable and fair land use policies for all Oregonians. I am a retired teacher, mother and grandmother. I am now an active volunteer on matters of climate justice, passionately concerned about the quality of life we leave behind for all children through the decisions we make now.

Hopefully, we now all acknowledge our history of broken promises to native peoples, the systematic exclusion of our African American neighbors and other groups from gaining access to equal rights in all areas of life here in our state. Given this history, which is still the norm, it is vital that HB 2488 set the stage to right these wrongs in the area of land use.

This bill must include specific climate change measures that reduce GHG emissions, that increase GHG storage (think climate-smart forest policies), and that mitigate the impact of the climate crisis on all Oregonians. It must ensure that disadvantaged groups have equal opportunity to participate in land use planning and decision-making. And it must adopt practices to address inclusion, environmental justice & equity in land-use planning and decision-making.

If not now, when? This bill will benefit all of us, regardless of political persuasion. We must act intelligently now to ensure not only a livable planet, but a more just society for ourselves, our children, grandchildren and generations that follow.

Thank you,

Emily Polanshek