

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Helm and Smith and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment,

My name is Robert Harker. I am a 32 year old male, born and raised in North East Portland. I currently have two jobs where I serve underprivileged youth, one as a Juvenile Custody Services Specialist for Multnomah County and the other as a Counselor for the Organization of Refugee Resettlement through Morrison Child & Family Services. I am writing you today to voice my support for HB-2488 amendments.

Climate change is the biggest threat to the future of human kind and health of the planet, and Oregon is no exception to that danger. We have seen it first hand in recent years, from the horrific wildfires of recent summers to the heavy damage from the ice storm this winter. Weather patterns in Oregon are undoubtedly changing, and consequences of these changing patterns will only intensify if we do not act now.

The HB 2388 amendments will direct local governments to acknowledge climate change in all decision making (as we saw in Texas this year, lack of planning for unusual weather events can be catastrophic). Moreover, this bill will ensure underprivileged communities have input in this decision making, as they are often disproportionately affected by extreme weather events and other issues climate change presents.

Much of our current legislature is extremely outdated, and the HB 2388 amendments are a huge step in the right direction. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Robert Harker