

My name is Nancy Harrison of Portland OR. I want to write in support of HB 2488-2, which would provide an equity mapping tool to shine light on disparate impacts experienced by environmental justice communities and devise ways to remedy them. Communities can also develop data gathering tools and use their mapping tools if they are comparable.

For many years, development in Portland and other areas of Oregon has been evaluated almost entirely on how well it serves business and wealthy neighborhoods, with little attention paid to how it may impact either the planet as a whole, through worsening the climate crisis, or how it impacts marginalized and indigenous communities. It is time for us to change that practice, and the only way to do it is to mandate that such considerations be part of all local land use decisions.

This bill would allow historically underserved and underrepresented communities to meaningfully participate in land use decisions, in part by requiring sufficient notice be provided to tribal communities regarding decisions that impact their lands and cultural resources.

In addition, this bill would require that current and projected impacts of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions be taken into account when planning local development, and that methods of addressing the impacts, through mitigation, adaptation and sequestration, be planned for.

I'm aware that opponents of the bill say that it is being pushed through too quickly, but that's why it offers an automatic one-year extension period to implement the new goal. There will be a tiered implementation of the new goal requirements for starting with large cities and counties in 2025 and moving on to small and rural communities 6 years from now in recognition of their unique needs and challenges.

This is an important bill, and I hope it will be passed and implemented in this session. We need it now, not later.

Thank you.