



March 30, 2021

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

I write to encourage you to support HB 2488-2 – Equity and Climate Change in Land Use Law.

As you all know well, we are living through unprecedented shifts in our environment and social institutions. A changing climate will continue to dramatically alter the ecological and social systems on which we rely for the health and well-being of our communities and economies. These changes expose and amplify long-standing inequalities in our society that have and continue to disproportionately impact and marginalize underserved member of our rural, low-income and environmental justice communities. A meaningful seat at the table for these impacted communities is long overdue, as is a meaningful opportunity to participate in the efforts to address the implications of climate change and design innovative, equitable, science-based solutions in the land-use planning context.

HB 2488-2 would weave these vital considerations into Oregon's land use decision-making process by way of a new goal. This update to the landmark Statewide Land Use Planning Goals gives us the change to comprehensively and proactively evaluate our land use decisions for climate impacts and carbon emissions while bringing in community members who have been excluded from these important conversations.

I also encourage to think about how the values and goals associated with HB 2488-2 can be extended to other resource agencies as well. Coordinating agreements between DLCDC and other state agencies, like DEQ, ODOT, DOGAMI, OWRD and OHA will be important to achieve the goals that are set forth in HB 2488. The issues of climate change impact and environmental justice are not unique to the land-use planning process.

Please do not pass up this opportunity to secure a just and livable future for all our communities, our children and grandchildren and generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and for your continued efforts toward creating climate-conscious and equitable future for the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

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