



February 9, 2021

Good afternoon, Chair Beyer, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Akashdeep Singh and I am the Policy and Advocacy Manager at OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon. I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 289.

The risk and fear of bias crimes impacts the ability of Oregonians to access outdoor spaces. SB 289 seeks to mitigate these abhorrent incidents on state-managed property through a deterrence system.

Oregon has a reputation as an environmental leader and a state whose forests, lakes, and mountains draw visitors from across the country and indeed the globe. It is imperative that we live up to that reputation and ensure that underserved Oregonians are able to access and thrive in outdoor spaces.

SB 289 takes a number of important steps, including requiring inter-agency communication on bias crimes, setting a standard for how state agencies address bias crimes, adds bias crimes as a determinant in revoking and denying licenses, defines the appropriate removal of privileges from perpetrators, and enables the convicted perpetrator to engage in restorative justice.

Thank you for the opportunity to urge a yes vote on SB 289.

Sincerely,

*Akashdeep Singh*

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