

We acknowledge that much more must be done to address the urgent issues of environmental and climate justice in a timely fashion. A first step is agreeing to a statement of principles upon which to base future action. The proposed resolution is the first step in righting some very obvious wrongs. An example that demonstrates the impact possible from a resolution includes the UN Declaration on Human Rights. It sets a standard and serves to inspire. SCR 17 could do the same.

Our EDI team advocates for SCR 17 because we see so clearly that those who are marginalized and oppressed are the first to suffer the consequences of pollution, lack of public infrastructure, and environmental degradation in general. It should be "the right of all people to clean air and protection from climate hazards and sustainable preservation of ecological integrity." Please note: ? This resolution is a conversation starter. It is a shared statement of conviction that lays the foundation for future policy to address the needs of our Black, Native American, and Indigenous communities--as well as essential workers, youth, low-income people and those who are most vulnerable in rural and urban communities. ? This resolution recognizes that the lack of services and essential infrastructure, as well as the disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards, faced by many communities in Oregon is a product of exclusion from and unequal access to decision-making processes. We must align the equity goals throughout the legislative and administrative branches of government to build a just, equitable, and resilient future for all Oregonians.

Events such as the September 2020 wildfires disproportionately impacted historically disadvantaged and underrepresented communities in many rural areas of our state. In recognition of climate trends such as fire, flood and energy system overloads, SCR 17 draws our attention to the need to repair communities to "build back better." Communities that have been harmed by unjust and discriminatory siting of pollution, lack of access to public infrastructure, and exposure to other environmental hazards, are now finding themselves bearing the brunt of the climate crisis.

SCR 17 establishes the expectations that Oregon will make investments in and direct state resources to

- 1) Impacted communities, ensuring that policies and processes are focused on building systems for healthy food, renewable energy infrastructure and good jobs with a family-sustaining wage--including workforce services and skills training programs.
- 2) Provide safe and affordable drinking water, watershed protection and water infrastructure to safeguard the water on which we currently depend.

At the core of an equitable and sustainable society is environmental justice -- without clean air and water, without energy and goods that are produced without harming us, without stable climate and weather, our communities are cast into chaos. A framework of shared principles helps us achieve equity and sustainability. We need a regenerative economy that prioritizes community health protection, respects traditional ecological knowledge, and ensures the full and fair participation of Black, Native American, Indigenous and People of Color communities. We urge your support for SCR 17.