

Testimony of Steve Schell*
steveschel@comcat.net

Re: HB 5530 -- DLCD Budget Package 90 - Feb. 22, 2021- Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee

I am here to advocate strongly for the Governor's recommended funding of DLCD's Package 90 which includes \$800,000. This sum will finance DLCD's development and adoption of a new land use planning goal dealing with climate and equity. The process is set forth in HB 2488, sponsors of which are Representatives Helm, Power, Holvey and Wilde, and Senators Fredrickson, Dembrow and Prozanski.

In this biennium the goals, some of which I helped draft, will be 50 years old. They have not been updated to address two extremely important current issues: equity and climate change. After lengthy conversations with the Governor's office, DLCD representatives, and the chief sponsors, the pre-session filed bill is being revised to meet the amount set forth in the Governor's budget and many of their objectives. The bill, as revised, reflects the intention to cause the single goal to be adopted in the current biennium. Implementation and funding for implantation over several years at the local level will come later. We expect funding from private and federal sources to assist in implementation.

As to climate justice, equity and environmental justice, the adopted goal will rectify patterns of past exclusion and disparate impacts using equity analysis and mapping to insure inclusion and to provide fair notice and mutual concurrence processes to previously underserved communities

Regarding climate change, the new goal is intended to cause local comprehensive plans and regional framework plans to: (1) reduce the per capita rate of greenhouse gas emissions over a 20 year planning timeframe; (2) mitigate the current and projected impacts of climate change; and (3) preserve sequestration capabilities. As to changes in urban growth boundaries and urban and rural reserves, the new goal will address the impacts on GHG reductions goals and how to reduce them and avoid sequestration areas or provide offsets

The bill contains requirements for an advisory committee carefully crafted to include communities previously ignored in land use planning. It requires at least 5 hearings by DLCD one by LCDC. It contains provisions for notice and impacts. It contains creation of a fund to earmark assistance for the goal and ultimately for its implementation at the local level. There is authorization to seek assistance in obtaining anticipated federal funding and private assistance in future biennia.

*Steve Schell, one of the drafters, is a lawyer. He served as vice chair of the first LCDC (1973-76), on the Energy Facility Siting Council (1990 -1998), as the Energy Trust of Oregon Board's first chair (2001 -2005) and served on Governor Kulongoski's Advisory Committee on Global Warming in 2004.