



March 1, 2021

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Noble, Vice-Chair Power, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Akashdeep Singh and I am the Policy and Advocacy Manager at OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon. It is my honor and pleasure to write in support of HB 2002, a bill that would transform our criminal justice landscape and establish Oregon as a state that is wholly committed to equity, accountability, and healing.

The Justice Reinvestment Act of 2021 eliminates most mandatory minimum sentences, reduces unnecessary arrests, and invests in culturally specific services to help victims. It helps victims and incarcerated Oregonians rebuild their lives, reinvests in Oregon communities through crime survivor services and addiction treatment, and provides help with housing, healthcare, and protections from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our communities are best served by a criminal justice system whose tenants are rehabilitation, justice, and healing. Our current systems do not meet these tenants and as we seek to build a future with a just criminal justice system, we must pursue opportunities that help us do so. HB 2002 is such an opportunity.

We stand with our community partners advocating for the Justice Reinvestment Act of 2021 and urge you to vote yes on this critical piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Akashdeep Singh

Akashdeep Singh, JD
akash@opalpdx.org