

Submitter: Trisha Patterson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB2889

Thank you Chair Dexter, and the House Committee, for continuing to consider and take testimony on HB2889, and carefully weigh public input on this issue. For the record, my name is Trisha Patterson and I'm a public policy graduate student at Oregon State University researching coastal housing issues. I support HB2889.

The section of this amendment that I want to discuss this morning is Section 9, e, relating to how housing production should support climate resiliency, environmental justice, and fair and equitable outcomes, with access to opportunity. Land use plays a vital role in climate adaptation, and we have in front of us a window of opportunity to reshape how housing can support climate resilience and adaptation. This is a long range policy, and this consideration of climate in Goal 10 is very promising to me. In a changing climate, we must make this connection, reflect this connection in policy, and guide our local planning institutions to more explicitly consider climate adaptation and resiliency in housing production. In a practical sense, this means we need to identify existing resiliency driven housing strategies, or housing strategies that have co-benefits of meeting housing need and being climate resilient. I am hard at work on this at Oregon State University. As I shared with you last week, my research focuses on the Oregon coast and identifying resiliency-driven housing production strategies, as well as assessing institutional capabilities to meet the moment: climate related hazards, coastal geologic hazards, and a growing housing shortage. This language, I believe, will help local planning institutions meet this moment. Planning is a top down institution. Calling out climate considerations and the connection between housing production and climate resiliency in Goal 10, I believe, will assist jurisdictions in making this connection in their own comprehensive plans. One example: HB2001, an agenda setting bill that reshaped local politics surrounding middle housing. HB2001 (2019) gave a clear state mandate to allow middle housing in all areas, and local jurisdictions acted accordingly. Jurisdictions where middle housing was stalling, or where it was simply unthinkable, passed, to come into compliance with HB2001. We have the same opportunity to recreate that success here. I strongly support this section of the amendment, and would encourage you to continue to consider how land use processes influence climate adaptation and resilience, with the framing that sustainable development is possible and necessary. This amendment should be passed expeditiously, and I was heartened to see climate considerations.

Thank you.