



March 27, 2023

Dear members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water,

The Intertwine Alliance is a coalition of 70 public, private and nonprofit partners advocating for parks, trails, green spaces and equitable access to nature throughout the Portland metro region. Our coalition strongly supports the Climate-Friendly & Equitable Communities (CFEC) program. Please do not move HB 2659 forward as written. This bill will repeal and delay meaningful and urgent action on addressing climate, equity and housing issues in Oregon's communities.

HB 2659 would kill tens of thousands of potential homes around the state, especially lower-cost ones and homes near transit. Environmental advocates are working in good faith to agree with cities on administrative changes that can help cities comply without throwing away years of work by repealing this entire package. Support that process instead.

The CFEC program adopted by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) will place more affordable and equitable housing choices, served by transportation options, at the center of how Oregon's major cities are planned, built, and funded. The CFEC program is aimed at the state's 8 major urban areas, and helps them tackle both the climate crisis and housing crisis with urgency—and in ways that deliver more equitable outcomes to Oregonians who have faced generations of discriminatory systems and historic barriers to services.

All Oregonians deserve access to walkable, bikeable neighborhoods with low-cost and safe transit and diverse, affordable housing choices. Current transportation and land use plans and investments do not serve the needs of marginalized populations, and lead to unaffordable housing, lack of housing choices, and prioritization of cars over people. They also do not get us to our greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals. In fact, many transportation plans are projected to increase GHG emissions from Vehicle Miles



Traveled (VMT) over the coming years. To change this, Oregon needs the CFEC program, now.

The CFEC program has broad, state-wide support. Oregonians are ready for Climate-Friendly & Equitable Communities, now. The current CFEC program was guided by a historically diverse advisory committee—and the program represents a delicate balance between urgency and flexibility achieved over two years of discussions, negotiation, compromise and public engagement. The partners of The Intertwine Alliance are among 1,600 businesses, organizations, and Oregonians for implementing these rules with urgency.

Sincerely,

Tara Wilkinson
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