

Submitter: Leisha Vogl  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2357

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2357 (HB 2357). This proposed legislation holds the potential to significantly improve the lives of Oregonians by addressing key issues in our community, particularly in terms of economic and social equity, environmental responsibility, and public health.

#### Support for Environmental Justice

HB 2357 demonstrates a commitment to sustainable development, including provisions that aim to protect Oregon's natural resources while fostering responsible economic growth. The bill's focus on reducing harmful environmental impacts, particularly in underserved communities, aligns with Oregon's long-standing commitment to environmental justice. By ensuring that all Oregonians have access to clean air, water, and safe neighborhoods, HB 2357 is a critical step toward achieving a more equitable and just future for the state.

#### Economic Equity and Opportunity

This bill also provides critical support for underrepresented communities, helping to bridge the gap in economic opportunities. By prioritizing support for local businesses and workers, particularly those in historically marginalized areas, HB 2357 will provide a foundation for increased economic mobility and job creation. This is particularly important as we recover from the economic hardships caused by the pandemic. By making investments in workforce development and entrepreneurship, the bill will help level the playing field and give individuals the tools they need to succeed in today's evolving economy.

#### Health and Wellbeing of Oregonians

The health and wellbeing of our residents must be at the forefront of our policy decisions, and HB 2357 places a high priority on public health. The bill's provisions will help mitigate the harmful effects of pollution and climate change on vulnerable populations, ensuring that all Oregonians—regardless of their income, race, or geographic location—can live in communities where they feel safe, healthy, and empowered to thrive.

## A Forward-Looking Vision for Oregon's Future

HB 2357 reflects a forward-thinking vision that takes into account both present needs and future challenges. It establishes a framework for innovative, long-term solutions to some of the most pressing issues facing our state today. It is a step toward securing a more sustainable and equitable future, one where all Oregonians have the opportunity to thrive.

For these reasons, I fully support Oregon House Bill 2357 and urge the committee to pass it. By doing so, we are making a bold commitment to building a stronger, more equitable, and sustainable Oregon for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Leisha Vogl