

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, and members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans, thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 3062.

My name is Raevyn Thompson, and I am writing in strong support of House Bill 3062 which is one of the first steps in protecting communities and our environment from continuous industrial development, perpetuating industrial pollution and health impacts across the entire state.

In 2016, Oregon had about 13 Superfund Sites, and that number has only increased. Since then, many laws have been put in place to consider public health and environment for Oregonians. However, we continue to ignore how land is zoned and used in the state and the impacts it has on communities, specifically Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color as well as low socio-economic status/income communities on their health and our overall environment.

For example, currently in Lane County, we are advocating for our Trainsong community, their health and environment to avoid a transloading facility near a community with little to no protection between the railyard and neighborhood, with a history of industrial pollution. Just a few years prior, another low-income/BIPOC community FINALLY felt their voices and concerns heard after the shutdown of J.H. Baxter, a wood treatment facility where dioxin and other harmful chemicals were released into the community for over 20 years! This is just one single county in Oregon who has plenty of examples of how land is used and continues to impact the most vulnerable communities, their health, livelihoods, and environment. As many of these injustices could have been avoided with this bill.

I am urging you to pass House Bill 3062, putting our communities, health, and overall environment first. Current rules only exacerbate this long overdue issue.

Thank you for your time,
Raevyn Thompson