

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, and members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans,

I am Laulea Miike, a sophomore majoring in environmental science at Willamette University, and I live in our state capital, Salem, Oregon. I strongly support HB 3062, which will help protect Oregon communities from the harmful impacts of industrial development near homes, schools, hospitals, and other sensitive locations.

Oregon's current land use system does not require cities and counties to consider the impact of industrial siting decisions. This means that communities—especially those that are low-income or BIPOC—are often forced to live, work, and play in areas with pollution, noise, traffic hazards, and environmental degradation **without having a say in the process**. On top of that, children and elders are at a higher risk of experiencing the negative effects of industrial pollution. Communities near industrial sites often face air, water, or land pollution, exposure to toxic substances, noise and light pollution, traffic and pedestrian safety, and urban heat island effects. Such effects could lead to asthma, cancer, reproductive harm, and more. **Public health and environmental justice are at risk if we don't safeguard our communities through HB 3062.**

As I mentioned, I am a student at Willamette University— an institution that would be affected by this bill. Chemeketa Community College, one of our university's educational partners, is less than 5 miles away from the ReWorld Covanta Incinerator. A study, [Waste Incineration and Public Health](#) found that, "Some contaminants that are released from incineration facilities are likely to contribute primarily to environmental compartments on a local scale (within 10 km)." And, most incineration facilities don't have emission data readily available to fully characterize environmental concentrations to assess health-effects (National Research Council (US) Committee on Health Effects of Waste Incineration, [2000](#)). Protecting communities does not automatically equal a ban on development but simply **ensures safeguards and preventative measures to have the least impact** on the adjacent community. It can be as simple as inputting a school zone sign, for example.

I value equal treatment and access to clean air so that people can be protected against preventable health hazards. If industries are going to pollute people, they should pollute everyone equally. **HB 3062 is a much-needed update to bring certainty, fairness, transparency, and public health considerations into land use decision-making.**

This bill will:

- Require local governments or industrial applicants to assess potential health and environmental justice impacts before approving industrial projects near sensitive areas.
- Ensure community members have a voice in the process through public hearings.
- Provide businesses and cities with clear, proactive guidelines to prevent conflicts before they arise.
- Reduce costly legal battles and complaints by addressing concerns upfront.
- Align Oregon's land use planning with our environmental justice commitments to create healthier, more resilient communities.

Economic growth should not come at the expense of community health and well-being. By modernizing our land use planning system, HB 3062 will help Oregon build a future where both businesses and communities can thrive responsibly. I urge you to support this important legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Laulea Miike