

I support HB 2488 because it supplies a framework around which our representatives must prioritize and plan to mitigate the climate catastrophe bearing down on us. Just as medical personnel have their Hippocratic Oath and years of training to assess and triage patients in the pandemic, legislators in this time of environmental and ethical crisis need standards that make their roles clear: tend to the communities most at risk and vulnerable, look to science and other enlightened democracies for ideas, and protect and manage our common wealth--the land--with an eye to the future and the carbon needs of the world at large. We Oregonians are sitting on a "green goldmine," with our forests capable of undoing—for free!-- much of the harm of our fossil fuel economy, if only we can recognize that the monetary worth of a complex forest ecosystem is far greater than the sum of its downed logs. I am hopeful and relieved that your committee is engaged with key elements of this complex problem, like equitable and logical land use, emission-curbing, carbon sinks, fair corporate taxation, pollution control and sustainable energy development.

Ours is a state with the smarts and the hearts to preserve large swaths of our coast for public enjoyment and use. If we similarly constrain our natural human greed and bend our minds to the task of leaving a stable economy and environment to the next generation, we will be living up to our obligation to each other and the world at large. Many of us are counting on state and federal government to devise and budget a saner way of living and sharing. It seems clear that the state will have to spend amply to retrain whole workforces and perhaps even sponsor new industries that keep us on our low emissions diet. You may have to dangle many a carrot to convince hurting communities and businesses to do the right thing by the environment. The economic, social, and health benefits of sustainability will soon be the only reward needed.

Thank you for leaning in to educate yourselves, paving the path for better times ahead.