

Submitter: Dave Dyk

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: HB2659

Chair & Members of the Committee --

As a resident of East County (Gresham), I wanted to urge you to not support HB 2659, which would repeal the Climate Friendly Equity (CFEC) rules.

East County (and other parts of the state) will really benefit from CFEC implementation. Both because of the climate, and because of the impact they'd have on housing prices (by reducing unnecessary mandates).

When the rules were first rolled out last year, there was a proposal in the City of Gresham for the City to join with a few other local jurisdictions to litigate the rules. My 13-year old daughter, Esther Dyk, rallied opposition to that (a video of her testimony is something I really cherish, and would be happy to share with any members). Thinking about climate change, housing choice, housing supply, and transportation planning through the lenses of young people is so important -- they will be living with the consequences of our choices for a lifetime.

My daughter highlighted a few points in support of the CFEC rules -- I will quote her below:

The first reason is climate change. I am really concerned about climate change. The earth is getting warmer. Natural disasters are happening more often.

Young people did not create this problem, but we are going to be dealing with it for our whole lives. We are counting on leaders like you to make good decisions that protect us from climate change.

The second reason is housing. Here in Gresham, we do not have enough homes. We need to build more so that everyone can have a safe place to live. A lot of the land that we could build homes on is instead being used for parking lots. We should make sure that people have homes before cars do.

The third reason is people should make their own choices. I like to walk, ride my bike, and take public transit. When I rent or buy a home of my own someday, I want to choose for myself whether to pay for a parking spot for a car. I don't want the City to

force me to pay for something that hurts the environment.

Thank you for letting me speak to you.

That testimony was powerful. Gresham did not join the litigation, and is currently implementing the CFEC rules. This is not difficult -- there is no mandate to stand up expensive new on-street parking programs (though governments certainly can if they want to). Rather, all they need to do is make some tweaks to the development code to remove costly and unnecessary mandates. Developers can (and will) still build parking to satisfy demand. And young people will have the choice of purchasing homes that they can afford, and shape their transportation use with patterns that fit the future.

I understand that there may be an opportunity to negotiate between the advocates for the environmental protections and those who are concerned about impacts on city government administration. This HB 2659 as written appears to be more of a full repeal. I'd encourage committee members to explore that option of modest tweaks to streamline the rules to make it easier for cities, while keeping the most-important thing, which is the repeal of those unnecessary parking minimums that hurt the environment and drive up housing costs.

Sincerely,
Dave Dyk, Gresham Oregon