

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now



Confronting Climate Change

<https://socan.eco>

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SOCAN testimony on HB2488

Chair Marsh and members of the Oregon House Committee on Energy and Environment:

I write on behalf of the 1500+ rural Southern Oregonians who are Southern Oregon Climate Action Now as Co-facilitator to support HB2844.

According to its [website](#):

"The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) is a small state agency. We work in partnership with local governments, and state and federal agencies, to address the land use needs of the public, communities, regions, and the state. The Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) provides policy direction for the land use planning program and oversees DLCD operations.

"We help carry out the vision and legacy of [Senate Bill 100](#), which for 40 years has contributed to the quality and character of the natural and built environment of the state. The program has been charged by the Legislature with managing urban growth; protecting farm and forest lands, coastal areas, and natural resource lands; and providing for safe, livable communities in concert with the vision of the local communities.

"Under the statewide land use planning program, each city and county is called upon to adopt and maintain a comprehensive plan and an implementing zoning code consistent with 19 statewide planning goals. Recognizing that each city and county has unique values and aspirations, our job is to provide planning guidance and technical assistance to help communities plan for their future while considering the needs of the region and the state.

"Helping cities and counties address these functions in the context of a wide range of state and local interests requires that we be problem solvers. The department's mission reflects this active role."

This brief inspection of the responsibilities of the DLCD reveals that it has huge responsibility through planning codes to monitor the way in which state lands are administered. HB2488 merely aligns the responsibilities of DLCD with 21st Century needs in two critical areas:

- 1) As recognized in Governor Brown's Executive Order 20-04, charging state agencies with the responsibility of reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the state and promoting carbon sequestration in our natural and working lands global warming and the climate chaos it is causing is imposing huge costs across the state.
- 2) That EO further charges agencies to meet greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals in a manner that is sensitive to, and remedies where relevant, the decades of social injustice that have been imposed on disadvantaged communities across the state.

There should be no doubt in the minds of any sentient Oregonian that our state is, indeed, suffering the climate chaos that global warming is causing and that our state should assume responsibility for contributing its fair share to remedying this problem. Similarly, there should be no doubt in the same Oregonian's mind that social injustice has long been a problem within the state and that any effort to address the climate crisis should also address that problem.

As sentient residents of rural Southern Oregon, we endorse the effort embodied in HB2488 to require that the Department of Land Conservation and Development adjust its goals to include addressing both the climate crisis and social injustice within the framework of its supervisory role in the state.

Sincerely,



Alan R.P. Journet Ph.D.