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March 8, 2021

Dear Chair Power, Vice-Chairs Bonham and Sollman, and Members of the House Energy & Environment Committee,

The passage of SB 100 in 1973 created Oregon's land use planning system that has protected fields and forests across the state. Almost 50 years later, it is time to update this system to reflect the present. Rogue Climate urges this committee to support the passage of HB 2488 "Equity and Climate in Land Use" as a critical step forward to appropriately meet the current and future challenges of the climate crisis and systemic environmental racism.

Rogue Climate is an environmental justice organization with offices in Phoenix and Coos Bay, Oregon with a mission to empower Southern Oregon & South Coast communities most impacted by climate change, including low-income, rural, youth, seniors, and communities of color, to win climate justice by organizing for clean energy, sustainable jobs, and a healthy environment. Rogue Climate has participated in local land use processes in communities across the region related to clean energy, fossil fuel exports, and rebuilding after the Almeda fire. We have experienced first hand that Oregon's land use processes are challenging for community members to participate in and that the State's current land use planning goals do not match Oregon's current priorities and the needs of our communities.

Across Southern Oregon and the South Coast, important land use decisions are being made about housing, rebuilding after the Labor Day fires, transportation, estuary management, and other land use issues that impact all of us, and especially Tribal communities, Black, Latinx and other people of color, as well as low-income and under-resourced rural communities. These decisions are often made with little community input, creating a mismatch between decisions made and the real and growing needs of our community for things like affordable and accessible housing, public transportation, access to local foods from our farms and fisheries, health and public safety, and a stable climate.



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By creating a new statewide land use planning goal, HB 2488 would ensure Oregon's land use planning system includes a comprehensive and well-rounded approach to addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation, equity, hazard risk reduction, and environmental justice. This new goal must include strong requirements for equitable public participation and mapping disparate impacts, to reduce emissions by protecting lands that sequester and store greenhouse gases, and also require jurisdictions to consider emissions and climate impacts in land use processes.

I also urge the members of the House Energy and Environment Committee to indicate their support for the recommended budget of \$800,000 to both initiate and finish the adoption of a new Goal 20 for Equity and Climate in this biennium. There is positive forward movement in securing funding in that the Department of Land Conservation and Development included \$800,000 in Package 90 for Equity Initiatives as part of their proposed agency budget (see SB 5530). In addition, in order to provide adequate technical assistance to underserved rural communities and smaller cities and counties, a recommendation from the House Energy and Environment Committee for additional funding allocations would be appreciated.

Incorporating equity and climate in Oregon's land use goals will help communities across Oregon to achieve livable communities now and into the future. Thank you for considering these comments in support of HB 2488.

Sincerely,  
Alessandra de la Torre, Energy Justice Organizer  
Rogue Climate