



April 4, 2023

Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: There is strong, broad statewide support for implementing the Climate Friendly & Equitable Communities program. Please do not move HB 2659 forward as written. This bill will repeal and delay meaningful and urgent action on addressing climate, equity and housing issues in Oregon's communities.**

Dear Senate President, Speaker, Senate Committee on Energy & Environment members, House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water members, and bill sponsors,

The Climate-Friendly & Equitable Community (CFEC) program adopted by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) will place more affordable and equitable housing choices, served by transportation options, at the center of how Oregon's major cities are planned, built, and funded. The CFEC program is aimed at the state's 8 major urban areas, and helps them tackle both the climate crisis and housing crisis with urgency—and in ways that deliver more equitable outcomes to Oregonians who have faced generations of discriminatory systems and historic barriers to services.

HB 2659 seeks to repeal and delay meaningful and urgent implementation of the CFEC rules. Please do not move this bill forward as written.

All Oregonians deserve access to walkable, bikeable neighborhoods with low-cost and safe transit and diverse, affordable housing choices. Current transportation and land use plans and investments do not serve the needs of marginalized populations, and lead to unaffordable housing, lack of housing choices, and prioritization of cars over people. They also do not get us to our greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals. In fact, many transportation plans are projected to increase GHG emissions from Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) over the coming years. To change this, Oregon needs the CFEC program, now.

**There are consensus-based solutions for resolving outstanding issues with CFEC.**

Getting the major urban cities the resources they need for implementation is key. Other issues are most effectively resolved via the administrative rulemaking process - not through legislation.

**The CFEC program has broad, state-wide support**

Oregonians are ready for Climate-Friendly & Equitable Communities, now. The current CFEC program was guided by a historically diverse advisory committee—and the program represents a delicate balance between urgency and flexibility achieved over *two years* of discussions, negotiation, compromise and public engagement. There is an [incredible groundswell of deep, diverse, grassroots public support](#) from over 1,600 businesses, organizations, and Oregonians for implementing these rules with urgency.

**Let's work together to get cities the resources they need to implement CFEC**

Cities are not a monolith when it comes to CFEC. While some cities are dissatisfied with the program, others have started implementing it—and they need additional resources to continue. The most effective way to resolve most cities' substantive issues with CFEC is with resources. From the get-go, the Oregon Climate Action Coalition and others have advocated for funding and technical assistance for cities. *Your leadership is needed to fund CFEC implementation and get cities the resources they need to do this vital work.*

**Adjust the CFEC program as needed via the administrative process—not legislation**

We know this program must work for cities. DLCD is committed to an iterative process of technical adjustments and changes as implementation moves forward. This process is actually happening right now. [DLCD is making adjustments and clarifications to the CFEC rules](#) based on on-going conversations. DLCD staff also outlined a process with clear timelines to make that happen. We should use these existing processes to resolve CFEC's technical issues.

**HB 2659: Please don't advance 'repeal and delay CFEC' legislation**

This flawed bill undermines efforts to advance GHG emission reductions and equitable housing outcomes. **The diverse array of state-wide groups and individuals signed on to this letter view HB 2659 as written as a significant threat to urgently tackling climate, equity and housing issues in Oregon's communities. We have better ways to resolve CFEC issues with funding and technical corrections as implementation moves forward.**

Given the broad, deep state-wide support and urgent need for CFEC, we ask that you work with us to get cities the funding and clarity they need to successfully implement CFEC. We greatly appreciate your leadership on Oregon's climate, equity and housing issues, and look forward to working with you in the session ahead. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

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