



March 28, 2021

House Committee on Energy and Environment
Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
Representative Ken Helm, Vice Chair
Representative David Brock Smith, Vice Chair
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony from Housing Land Advocates on House Bill 2488-2 amendments

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Brock Smith, Vice Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2488. The -2 amendments authorize the creation of a new Climate Justice goal within Oregon's Land Use Planning Program, mandate robust engagement with underserved and underrepresented communities, and establish a Climate Justice Planning Goal Fund. As a proponent for land use policies and planning choices that advance affordable, fair, and equitable housing outcomes, **Housing Land Advocates urges you to vote in favor of this legislation.** In taking this stand, we join with fellow advocates 1000 Friends of Oregon, the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association, and other groups in acknowledging the need to update our land use goals to address climate change and to frame that work around advancing environmental justice.

In 2019 the Legislature began the work of re-orienting mandated housing planning toward achieving more fair and equitable housing outcomes by approving HB 2001 and HB 2003. We thank you for this initiative. Several of our members participated on the committees advising the Land Conservation and Development Commission on the drafting of the implementing rules. Along with other stakeholders, we advocated for the adoption of rules that incorporated environmental justice in the requirements that cities must address in creating new Housing Production Strategies required by HB 2003. The resulting rules require local jurisdictions to describe “[how] the city is selecting Housing Production Strategies that help meet statewide greenhouse gas emission targets by creating compact, mixed use neighborhoods for all residents, including those part of state and federal protected classes” identified in the respective fair housing laws (OAR 660-008-0050 (4)(a)). Similarly, the rules adopted pursuant to HB 2001 jointly advance climate justice and fair housing by requiring cities to allow compact middle housing in traditional single-family neighborhoods.

Ultimately, we view fair and equitable housing and climate justice as complementary frameworks for advancing social justice through our built environment

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and the policies governing it. Thus, without reservation we encourage you to support adoption of the -2 amendments to HB 2488.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Bragar, President
Housing Land Advocates

cc: (by email)

HLA Board

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