

March 8th, 2021

Testimony on HB2488
House Committee on Energy and Environment

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Helm and Smith, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and the Environment,

I write to you today as Chair of the Oregon Green New Deal Committee, a standing committee of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Oregon.¹ The purpose of our committee is to prioritize climate justice advocacy, engaging across the state particularly with Oregon's front-line communities in order support those most affected by environmental injustice. We do this through community outreach and empowerment, education and volunteer engagement, policy advocacy, and advancement of DPO platforms and candidates.

We need reforms to our statewide land use planning goals which are outdated. We must ensure that climate, equity, and environmental justice are addressed in our statewide land use planning decisions, and that those most affected by these decisions are involved in making them. I, and the Oregon Green New Deal Committee, **urge you to support HB 2488—Equity and Climate in Land Use.**

Currently our state's land use planning goals fail to explicitly recognize and consider climate change and take an equity lens. This omission does damage to Oregon's remaining natural spaces and habitats, to rural, BIPOC, and front-line communities' health and well-being, as well as severely challenges our state's ability to achieve Oregon's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals in accordance with Executive Order 20-04. The Oregon Health Authority directly links the need for climate mitigation to address the disproportionate economic and health effects of on low-income and communities of color in Oregon.² One of these ways is more climate conscious land use planning system in the state. Tribal governments, and Native American, Black, Latinx and POC communities have expressed that the current system for land use decision making and planning is not sufficient to genuinely include these communities' needs, even as they experience the worst of environmental risks and climate change effects.

We strongly urge you to pass HB 2488 to add a new Land Use Planning Goal which will address climate change, environmental justice and include equity frameworks. I also urge you to support the recommended budget that will allow these policies to be effective.

Thank you for your efforts on passing this bill.

Sincerely,
Xanthia Wolland
Chair of the Oregon Green New Deal Committee
Democratic Party of Oregon

¹ I do not speak for the Democratic Party of Oregon.

²<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/CLIMATECHANGE/Documents/2020/Climate%20and%20Health%20in%20Oregon%202020%20-%20Full%20Report.pdf>