

March 29, 2021

Re: Testimony Regarding HB 2488-2 amendments

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Yelm and Brock Smith and members,

I live in rural Lane County, which is changing as farm and forested land are converted to residential housing and where the recent climate impacts are mindboggling. My neighborhood would have burned to the ground if the winds fueling the Holiday Farm fire had continued for another hour. Out here, we have no public transit, no bike paths, no emergency shelters and no required home hardening against climate (wind fueled) fires.

I write to support HB 2488 -2 Amendments. I agree wholeheartedly with the testimony of former Commissioner Steve Shell of the Land Conservation Development Commission (LCDC).

In particular:

1. Speed of Adoption. Completion of the Climate Justice Land Use Goal by June 30, 2023 is essential. The LCDC could have started on the Goal last summer, but did not due to lack of staff and state funding. I would prefer that the Goal be adopted by June 30, 2022, but that would mean amending the current budget immediately. We do not have another 10-13 years to adopt this goal under exiting laws. Plus, if we have learned anything from the September 2020 fires and the constant floods on the coast and in Eastern Oregon, it is that we must act boldly and quickly to address climate in equity planning, especially for rural Oregon.
2. Funding. The state appropriations of \$800,000 is sorely needed as the Department of Land Conservation and Development and many counties and small cities have been not been able to adequately fund climate and equity planning. I suggest a higher amount earmarked for small cities and unincorporated rural communities, as climate disasters affect these most acutely. I applaud the legislators for allowing the Climate Justice Planning Goal Fund to receive federal funds, grants, gifts and donations from any source. This gives local governments and LCDC the flexibility to use federal funds, including transportation funds, to enhance climate equity planning.

Please strengthen and pass this Bill. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Helen Kennedy
Marcola

Cc: Senator Lee Beyer
Representative Marty Wilde
Robin McArthur, Chair LCDC

Jim Rue, Director, DLCD