

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Helm and Smith, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and the Environment, - I am writing in support of HB 2488. We need to move forward with long-needed reforms to our statewide land use planning goals. If our state is to adequately confront the 21st Century challenges presented by the climate crisis and systemic environmental racism, then we need a 21st Century planning system that is up to the task. For that reason, I urge you to support HB 2488—Equity and Climate in Land Use, to ensure that Oregon's land use planning system includes a comprehensive and rounded approach to addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation, equity, hazard risk reduction and environmental justice.

Oregon's land use planning system has long been a model for responsible and deliberate land use.. However, it fails to explicitly consider climate change within any of the 19 statewide land use planning goals. A single new statewide land use planning goal—Goal 20—would ensure that climate, equity and environmental justice are addressed in our statewide land use planning decisions. I support the passage of HB 2488 to update Oregon's Land Use Planning System to address climate change, environmental justice and equity in the planning system in a holistic and integrated manner, which is the only way to prevent climate responses from reinforcing existing inequities.