

Testimony: Oregon Climate Agriculture Network (OrCAN) - HB 2488 – 2 (Amended Version):  
Climate Change, Land Use Planning and Climate Equity for Disadvantaged Communities

Oregon Climate Agriculture Network (OrCAN) wishes to express its support for passage of HB 2488 – 2, dated 3/17/21 (as amended).

First, here is an explanation about how OrCAN's came to its current position. OrCAN has for a while supported the concept of aligning the state's land use planning program with the consequences of climate change, including mitigating its impacts on disadvantaged persons. However, it could not support the original/introduced version of HB 2488. Among the reasons is that the bill, as introduced, proposed in Section 5, standards to regulate agricultural practices to capture, store and sequester greenhouses. OrCAN's long-standing position on this matter is land management practices, to increase stored soil carbon, must occur through incentives and voluntary action and not regulations. However, to our surprise the March 8, 2021 hearing was on the introduced version not on HB-2488-1 – the version OrCAN supported.

From OrCAN's perspective HB 2488-2 is now a much better bill. It addresses our concerns about land management and can be better administered than previous versions. It more practically addresses: 1) the nexus of climate change and state's land use planning program and 2) the hazards that climate change poses to disadvantaged people in both urban and rural Oregon. OrCAN's policy reasons for supporting HB 2488-2 are the same as in stated in its March 8, 2021 testimony in support for HB 2488-1.

In closing, there appears to be an error on line 4, page 3 of HB2488-2. It is suggested that it be changed as follows for the sake of clarity.

(iii) Protect and enact restore natural resources and greenspaces that accumulate and store greenhouse gases, including the oceans, wetlands, forests, and soils within the local jurisdiction boundaries