



# BEYOND TOXICS

*Leadership For a Clean and Just Oregon*

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Helm, Vice Chair Smith, Speaker Kotek, and members of the House Energy and Environment Committee. My name is Ana Molina, I use she/her pronouns and I am the Statewide Environmental Justice Program Manager at Beyond Toxics.

I am grateful for the opportunity to urge your support for House Bill 2488 as amended.

Climate change is a justice issue. We are all experiencing and will all experience its impacts. But these impacts are playing out against a background of racial and socioeconomic inequities, which shape how we are able to withstand those impacts. We cannot be blind to equity and justice issues when addressing climate change, unless we wish to repeat and reinforce the decisions that have created sacrifice zones in low-income and BIPOC communities, and left rural communities behind. A Goal 20 for climate, equity and environmental justice makes sure our planning in these areas is done right and that our objectives reinforce each other.

Take for example, the fires that demolished the towns of Talent and Phoenix and burned so much of the lower income housing that was affordable for elders, farm workers and other workers in the agricultural or service industries. As these cities build back better, a Goal 20 for Climate Justice will help guide upcoming decisions about economic development, housing, transportation and preserving natural resource land for carbon sequestration - in a way that equitably serves everyone's needs.

I ask that you support House Bill 2488 and the dash-one amendments to it. Addressing the climate crisis, environmental injustice, and structural inequities in our State requires us to use every tool at our disposal. Planning is one of the best tools our government has. There is a chorus of voices both inside and outside of the legislature who have recognized the need for Oregon's lauded land-use planning system to better address the challenges of the twenty-first century. This bill and this committee's support will go a long way towards achieving ensuring that our land use system continues to be something Oregonians can take pride in.

I am happy to answer any questions you have about House Bill 2488 and the dash-one amendments. Thank you, etc.

Sincerely,

Ana Molina

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Statewide Environmental Justice Projects Manager

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