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March 8, 2021

Re: House E&E Hearing on HB 2488-1

Chair Marsh and Committee:

I'm here to ask your support for HB 2488-1. Oregon's widely respected land use law will be 50 years old in the 21-23 biennium. Many of the goals adopted under the law are almost that old. As vice-chair of the first Land Conservation and Development Commission I helped write the first 15 goals. The process included more than 200 hearings and technical advisory committee meetings across the state.

For a bit of visual history, let me take a minute to talk about what you can see now as a result of those early goals.

You can see now my monthly West Slope neighborhood meeting - That's goal 1 --Citizen Involvement.

You can see now the protection of prime farmland like the Agency Plains above Madras where my wife is from – That's Goal 3 – Agricultural Lands.

You can see now the urban growth boundary east of Salem or north of Hillsboro – That's Goal 14 -- Urbanization.

You can see now runners on the Prefontaine Trail from Autzen Stadium to the Ferry Street Bridge in Eugene or a concert on the South Waterfront Park in Portland – That's Goal 15— Willamette River Greenway.

You can see now the YouTube videos of what happened when the 2011 Fukushima Tsunami hit the Brookings Harbor – That's Goal 16, Estuarine Resources, as well as Oregon's tsunami zone protection law.

You can see now the 804 trail in Yachats, the protection of Hug Point, my Oregon Shores mile, and, at Nye Beach in Newport, the hulks of ruined construction as what happens when beach foredunes are ignored -- That's Goal 17, Coastal Shorelands and Goal 18, Beaches and Dunes.

Those goals, adopted in the 1970s, made a difference, which we can see now.

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Now two existential needs confront Oregon and our land use system: Climate Change measures and Environmental Justice. HB 2488-1 addresses both.

Governor Brown's budget provides \$800,000 to address these issues. HB 2488-1, as molded by input from the equity community, DLCD, the Executive, local planners and others, meets the purpose of this budget item. Under Rep Helm's aegis I've been privileged to participate in the drafting and redrafting of the bill.

In its current form, the bill:

Requires one new goal to include both environmental justice and climate change measures, to be adopted by the LCDC in the 21-23 biennium;

Requires establishment of a Regulatory Advisory Committee composed of broad voices to advise in forming the goal;

Requires hearings in every congressional district, and

Establishes a fund for providing implementation assistance to local governments in the 23-25 biennium and beyond.

The goal will require that local governments in their comprehensive and framework plans and urban growth boundary changes to:

identify and remedy disparities to disadvantaged communities occurring as a result of climate change.

Deal with climate change adaptation, emissions reductions, and sequestration

Recognizing the 13 years it took to get the first round of local comprehensive plans adopted and acknowledged, we are sensitive to the needs of and pressures on local governments. To that end:

A fund is established for implementation.

Authorization is provided to seek Federal grants and other sources of funding to assist local government in implementation.

Time-frames, based on population, are established to allow time for implementation

A right to seek an extension is provided to smaller local governments

A reasonable expectation exists that the current Congress will provide funds to meet the challenges of climate change and will rely on states and local governments for implementation.

This bill looks forward toward meeting Oregon's already existing target for emissions reductions. Planning matters. Based on the planning of the last 50 years and our State's imminent needs I respectfully ask you to support this bill and the needed funding as a priority in this legislative session. Thank you.

