

March 8, 2021

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Helm and Smith, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and the Environment,

I am a Clatsop County resident since 1976 and am currently serving on the Northeast Citizens Advisory Committee for updating the Clatsop County Comprehensive Land Use Plan. I am also the representative from our local area CAC to the county wide Citizen Advisory Committee. Here in Clatsop County, we began this updating process June 20, 2019. We are currently reviewing Goal 6 of the 19 Goals to our state plan.

It is abundantly clear that we need reforms to our statewide land use planning goals. I urge you to support HB 2488—Equity and Climate in Land Use. This will ensure that Oregon's land use planning system includes a comprehensive approach to addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation, equity, hazard risk reduction and environmental justice.

Interestingly, I also participated in drafting the original Clatsop County Comp Plan in 1980. As I wade through the 19 goals for the 2nd time in my life, I realize the state goals fail to explicitly consider climate change within current statewide land use comprehensive plans. 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 process and decisions.

We as local citizens are currently making critical decisions regarding comprehensive plans, without sufficient consideration of the projected climate impacts of local and statewide land use decisions. We also need to consider whether these decisions will help achieve Oregon's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

As an active participant in the current land use planning process I strongly support the passage of HB 2488 to update Oregon's Land Use Planning System to address climate change, environmental justice and equity.

I also urge the members of the House Committee on Energy and the Environment to support the recommended budget of \$800,000 to both initiate and finish the adoption of a new Goal 20 for Equity and Climate in this biennium. It is critical to provide adequate technical assistance to underserved rural communities like Clatsop County and smaller cities and counties. I also urge a recommendation from the House Energy and Environment Committee for additional funding allocations.

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