



To: Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment
From: Julia DeGraw, Oregon Conservation Network
Date: March 23, 2021

RE: Support for HB 2488-2 – Adopt a new Goal 20 for Climate and Equity in Land Use Laws

Chair Marsh and Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB 2488-2. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in Oregon, we would like to register the Oregon Conservation Network's strong support of HB 2488-2 to adopt a new goal 20 for climate and equity in land use laws.

The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. OCN is a coalition of 37 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy. OCN is powered by tens of thousands of Oregonians who belong to their membership organizations, including Beyond Toxics. We work to promote policies that will ensure a better Oregon for our children – and to fight policies that do not.

Oregon's land use system has served our communities well over the past fifty years, protecting shorelands, farming lands, forests and encouraging careful planning and growth for our cities. However, despite the strength and breadth of our nineteen land use planning goals, none of the goals takes climate into account as a critical consideration for the future of land use. Land use planning for the future means planning for a new climate reality, one where we must protect our communities from drought, flood, fire and accommodate more people who will be moving to Oregon.

HB 2488-2 will adopt a new Goal 20 for climate equity. This goal will guide local governments as they update comprehensive plans and land use frameworks. When it is adopted, the Goal 20 will be equal to all the other land use goals that must be considered to create the factual basis for any land use record of decision. Climate considerations are necessary to achieve a comprehensive land use system that prepares us for new public health and infrastructure threats that may emerge in climate change scenarios.

HB 2488-2 also links climate to equity and inclusion. Although Goal 1 of our planning system requires "citizen" involvement, our institutional systems have historically excluded Black, Native American, Latinx, low-income rural and coastal residents from "sitting at the table" during land use decision making. HB 2488-2 strengthens the requirements for inclusion. The bill also updates the terms we use to accurately describe the full richness of Oregon residents and omits offensive and inappropriate terms such as "minority groups." The bill also has a provision for DLCD to develop a Climate Equity Mapping Tool that local governments can use to develop a factual basis for determining disproportionate impacts of climate to vulnerable and disadvantaged communities across our state.

Achieving health equity requires the ongoing collaboration of all regions and sectors of the state, including tribal governments, to recognize, reconcile and rectify historical and contemporary injustices.



The cost of adopting a new goal is estimated at \$800,000 which is referenced in the DLCD's policy option package 90 and is linked with an appropriate in the Governor's Recommended Budget. The bill also establishes a Climate Justice Planning Fund in Section 7 which allows the Agency to accept federal funds, grants and other appropriations. These monies will be distributed to local governments to assist with the resources needed for implementation when compliance with Goal 20 is required during the 25-27 biennium.

We are pleased to see that HB 2488-2 centers the nexus between just and equitable access to participation and consultation and comprehensive land use planning for climate impacts. We need to adopt a new Goal 20 because no other land use goal accomplishes this.

We urge your support for climate justice by passing HB 2488-2.

Sincerely,

Julia DeGraw
Oregon Conservation Network
Oregon League of Conservation Voters Coalition Director

Testimony Submitted On behalf of all the OCN Member Organizations:

1000 Friends of Oregon | Association of Oregon Recyclers | Audubon Society of Portland | Beyond Toxics | Cascadia Wildlands | Center for Biological Diversity | Central Oregon Landwatch | Climate Solutions | Engineers for a Sustainable Future | Defenders of Wildlife | The Environmental Center | Environment Oregon | Friends of Mount Hood | Friends of the Columbia Gorge | Friends of Mt. Hood | Greater Hells Canyon Council | League of Women Voters of Oregon | Native Fish Society | Neighbors for Clean Air | Oceana | Oregon Coast Alliance | Oregon Environmental Council | Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility | Oregon League of Conservation Voters | Oregon Natural Desert Association | Oregon Land and Water Alliance | Oregon Wild | Renewable Northwest | Rogue Riverkeeper | Trout Unlimited | Tualatin Riverkeepers | Rogue Valley Audubon Society | Sierra Club Oregon Chapter | Surfrider Foundation | Umpqua Valley Audubon Society | WaterWatch of Oregon | Wild Salmon Center