

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR OREGON

LC1894/2902

Introduced by: Sen. Dembrow & Rep. Power

A RESOLUTION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Communities across Oregon, and especially our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities, have been experiencing worsening climate and environmental impacts. Events such as the September 2020 wildfires most profoundly affected communities that were already among our most vulnerable and underserved. Communities that have been harmed by unjust and discriminatory siting of pollution and other environmental hazards are now finding themselves bearing the brunt of the climate crisis.

As Oregon takes on the monumental challenge of redressing these impacts, there should be a clear indication from the legislature that the needs of historically and disproportionately impacted communities will be centered every step of the way. We must improve the public health and well-being of all communities while directly tackling the climate crisis and environmental injustice.

WHAT THE JOINT RESOLUTION WILL ACCOMPLISH

LC1894/2902 establishes principles, lays a framework of shared values, and lays the path forward for future policies and practices based on the right to ethical, balanced, healthy and responsible uses of land and renewable resources for future generations.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR OREGON WILL:

- Acknowledge the deep interconnections between present environmental crises and historic, structural racial and socioeconomic inequities in the state
- Recognize that frontline, impacted and traditionally underrepresented communities have lacked adequate services and infrastructure, which has made those communities more vulnerable to environmental and public health impacts
- Call for recognition and consideration by all state agencies of the need to correct environmental injustices, improve public health and overall well-being in communities, make reparative investments in frontline communities, and build a just, equitable and resilient future to secure health and well-being for all people
- Affirm that clean air and water, healthy food and a stable climate are basic human rights
- Further recognizes that the lack of services and disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards faced by many communities in Oregon is a product of exclusion from and unequal access to decision-making processes
- Envision a regenerative economy in Oregon focused on building systems for healthy food, renewable energy infrastructure, clean air and water, good jobs, respect for traditional ecological knowledge systems, and the full and fair participation in decision-making by Oregon tribes and other impacted and traditionally underrepresented communities

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