

EQUITY AND CLIMATE IN LAND USE

HB 2488

Chief Sponsors: Sens. Golden, Frederick & Dembrow; Reps. Power & Helm

WE NEED TO UPDATE OUR LAND USE LAWS

Addressing climate change in Oregon requires rethinking how we use land for natural resources, public facilities, and communities. Yet we cannot address climate change without addressing the legacy of land use decisions that have failed many communities.

While Oregon's statewide land use planning goals have been a national standard for balanced and deliberate planning, these goals need updating to address climate change and achieve environmental justice.

SUMMARY OF HB 2488

GOAL AMENDMENTS

The bill directs the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) to adopt a new Statewide Land Use Planning Goal to direct local governments to address climate change, achieve environmental justice and ensure equitable participation of disadvantaged and historically underserved communities in land use decisions.

APPLIES TO LOCAL LAND USE DECISIONS

Once finalized, these new and updated land use goals will apply to local government decisions relating to comprehensive plans and Urban Growth Boundary expansion, and identification and selection of urban and rural reserves, and will help all levels of government in Oregon to promote environmental justice, ensure equitable participation in decisions by affected communities, and achieve our State's climate goals.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The bill establishes a committee to advise the development of the new statewide land use planning goal, which must include stakeholders with environmental and/or social justice experience and interests.

MAPS IMPACTS AND INCLUDES EJ COMMUNITIES

The bill requires state agencies and local governments to identify disparate health risks to environmental justice communities. The new goal must also ensure equal and fair notice to impacted communities, and consultation and mutual concurrence with Native American tribes and communities.

ADDRESSES OUTDATED AND OFFENSIVE LEGAL TERMS

The bill avoids the use of inaccurate and offensive terms such as "minorities," and instead uses terms that best reflect Oregon's racially and culturally diverse population.

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