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Press Kit:

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Eugene City Council endorses the Declaration on Human Rights and Climate Change

Eugene steps forward to be the 2nd city in the world to endorse

EUGENE, ORE. – On February 12th, in a 7-1 vote in favor, Eugene, Oregon became the second city in the world to endorse the International Declaration on Human Rights and Climate Change (and the first city over 100,000).

Eugene Mayor Lucy Vinis said, "I am proud of our city for being the second in Oregon to formally express our support for the Declaration of Human Rights and Climate Change which reflects long-held values in our community."

The resolution to endorse the Declaration was brought to the Council by Beyond Toxics and the Eugene-Springfield NAACP. Beyond Toxics, an Oregon-based environmental justice organization, has joined with a major network of international human rights advocates for a call-to-action to governments around the world. The guiding principles for this call-to-action are expressed in a ***Declaration on Human Rights and Climate Change***. The Declaration was drafted by the Global Network for the Study of Human Rights and the Environment, the largest network of human and environmental rights scholars in the world.

One of the Declaration's authors is Dr. Tom Kerns, has been at the forefront of an international movement on human rights advocacy and action. Kerns, a former Beyond Toxics board member, worked with a team that includes numerous world-renowned environmental and human rights scholars who drafted the Declaration as a clarion call to governments to address the human rights implications of climate change. The Declaration is one of a convergence of initiatives reflecting the need to understand human rights as intrinsically threatened by climate change.

Lisa Arkin, Beyond Toxics' Executive Director said, "The Declaration foregrounds human rights in our work to address climate change. As more Oregon communities suffer the effects of fires, floods, excessive heat and drought, focusing on human rights puts our advocacy work squarely at the intersection of environmental and racial justice, worker rights and the destruction of natural resources."

To read the Declaration on Human Rights and Climate Change:

http://www.beyondtoxics.org/wp-content/uploads/UN_DeclHumanRights-n-ClimateChange_Nov2016.pdf

For more detail about the Declaration: <http://www.beyondtoxics.org/work/climate-justice/>

A few of the many local businesses and non-profits that have thus far endorsed the Declaration: NAACP Eugene Springfield Oregon, Mountain Rose Herbs, 350.org Eugene, Community Alliance of Lane County (CALC), City of Eugene Human Rights Commission, City of Eugene Sustainability Commission, Huerto de la Familia, UO MEChA, Homelessness Work Group, Our Revolution Lane County, Eastside Portland Air Coalition, Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), UO Native American Student Union (NASU), Integration Network for Immigrants of Lane

County, Oregon Wild, Sierra Club – Many Rivers Group, Cascadia Wildlands, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility...and many others.

Beyond Toxics protects and enhances human and environmental health. We promote environmental justice engagement and community-based environmental grassroots organizing to ensure environmental protection and health for all communities. We empower communities to enact lasting solutions to environmental health threats.

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