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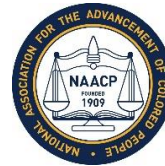
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NAACP

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Leading Oregon Environmental Justice Organizations Announce Transformative 2021 Legislation

Environmental justice joint resolution and land use reform bill have support of a strong group of legislators and community leaders

VIRTUAL PRESS CONFERENCE: January 14, 12-12:30 p.m. Media representatives are invited to join the virtual press conference by registering here: <https://tinyurl.com/BT-NAACP-EJ2021>. You will immediately receive the zoom link.

SPEAKERS: Senator James Manning, Representative Karin Power, Sharon Gary-Smith of the Portland NAACP and a representative of the Lane County Chapter of the NAACP, and others. Introduction to the legislation will be followed by a Q&A session afterward.

EUGENE, OR. – State elected leaders are joining with Beyond Toxics and the Eugene/Springfield and Portland chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to champion a suite of environmental justice legislation to be introduced in the upcoming session of the Oregon state legislature. | [Summary of our Environmental Justice Legislative Priorities](#) (PDF)

HB 2488, the "[Equity and Climate in Land Use](#)" bill, calls upon Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development to update statewide land use planning goals, in order to make equitable planning decisions for vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, and establish measurable climate targets associated with land use. **LC 1894/2902**, the "[Environmental Justice for Oregon](#)" Joint Resolution, calls on the state legislature to adopt a vision and set of principles for achieving environmental justice in Oregon, including recognizing the right of all people to clean air and water.

In the wake of the 2020 Oregon wildfires, and nationwide protests against systemic racism, we argue that Oregon needs a major shift in its approach to land use decisions, prioritizing the needs of impacted communities.

Representative Karin Power, who is introducing both the bill and Joint Resolution, explains:

"I'm proud to be introducing these two pieces of legislation this session, which will help equip Oregon to tackle the monumental challenges facing our State: the climate crisis and systemic racial inequities. The events of the past year put into sharp relief just how deeply intertwined these issues are. There's a growing recognition among my colleagues in the legislature that, going forward, Oregon needs a holistic reimagining of who deserves to have a say in the future of our communities. This legislation will put our State on the path to achieve this."

Lisa Arkin, Executive Director of Beyond Toxics, said: *"Oregon's land use planning goals have stood the test of time in many ways, however laws that are nearly fifty years old need updating to address two of the most pressing issues of our time, climate impacts and the exclusion of those who bear the heaviest burdens of public health problems related to environmental pollution."*

[Details about our legislative priorities for the 2021 Oregon session](#)

Please join us for this meeting by registering here: <https://tinyurl.com/BT-NAACP-EJ2021>

Beyond Toxics is a statewide environmental justice organization advancing policies that ensure meaningful participation and cultivating grassroots leadership from Oregon's frontline and impacted communities. Established in 2001, we are a multicultural, inter-generational team dedicated to centering community leaders and building out the true diversity of our state's vibrant Environmental Justice movement.