

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 amend the Statewide Land Use Planning Goals to (1) address climate change and reduce emissions, and (2) promote the participation of disadvantaged and historically underserved communities.

MAPS IMPACTS AND INCLUDES EJ COMMUNITIES

The bill requires LCDC to identify and map the unique and cumulative health risk environmental justice communities. The amended goals must also ensure equal and fair notice to impacted communities, and consultation and mutual concurrence with Native American tribes and communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The bill establishes a committee to advise LCDC department on environmental justice, made up of a majority of stakeholders with environmental and/or social justice experience and interests.

INTERIM STANDARDS

Achieving and finalizing these changes will take time. Therefore the bill requires the creation of "interim standards" – based on existing reports and data by state agencies and the legislature – that will guide land use decisions in the near-term and propel Oregon towards reaching its climate goals.

APPLIES TO LOCAL LAND USE DECISIONS

Once finalized, these new and updated land use goals will apply to and 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.

ADDRESSING OUTDATED AND OFFENSIVE STATUTORY LANGUAGE

The bill amends language in Oregon's statutes by removing the word "minorities" identifiers and instead uses terms that best reflect Oregon's racially and culturally diverse population.

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