

EQUITY IN LAND USE

HB 2488-7

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

WE NEED TO UPDATE OUR LAND USE LAWS

Addressing historical inequity in Oregon requires rethinking how we use land for natural resources, public facilities, and communities. We cannot address environmental and climate-related challenges 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 include equity and environmental justice in land use decisions.

SUMMARY OF HB 2488-7

A GOAL UPDATE FOR EQUITY

The bill directs the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) to update Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 1 relating to public involvement. This will guarantee inclusive, responsible, and just land use planning by Oregon's local governments.

ADDRESSES OUTDATED AND OFFENSIVE LEGAL TERMS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.

ENABLES INPUT TO THE GOAL UPDATE PROCESS

The bill establishes a committee to advise the Goal 1 update, including representatives of tribal communities and groups who have historically been excluded from land use decisions. Hearings will take place in each of Oregon's congressional districts so communities can take part in the Goal 1 update process.

INCLUDES EJ COMMUNITIES IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

The bill includes provisions to ensure environmental justice communities have adequate information about and ample opportunities to participate in land use decisions. It brings issues such as the need to identify disparate health risks and provide sufficient notice to disadvantaged communities into the heart of our land use laws.

APPLIES TO LOCAL LAND USE DECISIONS

Once finalized, the updated goal will ensure that local governments include equity and environmental justice in land use plan updates to address the needs of our most impacted communities. This bill will help all levels of government in Oregon ensure equitable participation in decisions by affected communities and meet our State's high standards for responsible, deliberative, and equitable land use decisions.

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