



PRESS RELEASE

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House Passes Bill in Push for Equitable Environmental Justice Practices

SCR 17 A would establish an environmental justice framework for the State of Oregon to jointly create solutions to address environmental, economic, and racial injustice for vulnerable rural and urban communities, low-income, and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), essential workers and youth

SALEM, OR- Today the House voted to pass SCR 17 A, which would create an environmental justice framework to ensure greater public involvement in decisions made by the state's natural resource agencies, as outlined under ORS 182.545.

Today's resolution, which passed unanimously out of the Senate and House Energy and Environment Committees, will support the full participation of communities most affected by environmental justice issues when approaching policy development and implementation, including vulnerable rural and urban communities, low-income, and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, as well as essential workers and youth.

"This resolution presents us with a set of values calling for the involvement of all people regardless of race, income, and national origin in decisions that will directly impact their lives. This framework will shape Oregon's vision with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, policies, and decisions," said Rep. Khanh Pham (D-Portland), a sponsor and carrier of the legislation.

In Oregon, rural communities, especially farmers and farmworkers, face increased economic repercussions due to a rise in natural disasters, from wildfires to ice storms. Moreover, policies that have targeted BIPOC communities, like redlining and segregation, show how environmental degradation excessively impacts our most vulnerable communities and is tied to economic opportunity. Today, BIPOC communities disproportionately reside on land contaminated by toxic waste or in hazardous areas, lowering property values.

“We all have a right to access clean air, clean water, and to live in a pollution-free environment,” said chief sponsor of the bill, [Rep. Karin Power](#) (D-Milwaukie). “Today’s resolution is a step in the right direction towards a more equitable future where all voices are heard.”

The resolution passed 46-11.

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