



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

PO Box 28454 Portland, OR 97228
PHONE: (503) 626-8197

oapa@oregonapa.org • www.oregonapa.org

April 1, 2019

Representative Ken Helm, Chair
House Committee On Energy and Environment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
hee.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association in Support of HB 2322

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

This letter provides testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) on HB 2322. OAPA is an independent, statewide, not-for-profit membership organization of over 950 planners from across the state working for cities of a range of sizes, counties, special districts, state agencies, community-based organizations, and private firms. OAPA provides leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and resident empowerment, and by providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change.

OAPA's Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee (LPAC) has reviewed HB 2322 and is in support of the bill. We agree that Oregon's land use planning goals need updating to better support policies that further encourage the development of renewable energy facilities and reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, helping to meet state energy and climate priorities. As outlined in HB 2322, there are multiple environmental, social, and economic benefits of reducing GHG emissions and increasing renewable energy in Oregon. In conjunction with HB 2020, this bill will help Oregonians move toward a low carbon economy, creating more resilient communities and improved environmental quality.

Additionally, one of OAPA's policy priorities for the past several years has been to Update Goal 13: Energy Conservation to meet the needs and challenges of the 21st century. OAPA supports a comprehensive energy goal that incorporates and balances other goals with the desire to conserve energy, balance impacts of energy development, and encourage development of a sustainable energy supply for Oregon. We support renewable and sustainable energy development, policies, and regulations that balance impacts to resource lands and people. OAPA also encourages changes to state law to shift the role of final permitting from state agency super siting to local governments.

To ensure that the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) can accomplish goal updates and guidelines within the timeline proposed, OAPA recommends that HB 2322 be referred to the Ways and Means Committee to ensure that DLCD has adequate funding for this program, as they may also be tasked with implementation of land use and transportation parts of HB 2020, as well as HB 2001 and HB 2003.

Thank you for your time and attention to our testimony.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kirsten Tilleman in black ink.

Kirsten Tilleman, AICP, President
Board of Directors

Handwritten signature of Damian Syrnyk in black ink.

Damian Syrnyk, AICP, Chair
Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee