



American Planning Association  
**Oregon Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*

February 7, 2020

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair, and Senator Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources  
[senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Re: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association in Support of SB 1530-27

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Olsen, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) firmly supports SB 1530 with the -27 amendments.

OAPA is an independent, statewide, not-for-profit membership organization of over 950 planners from across the state working for cities, counties, special districts, state agencies, tribes, 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 supports sustainable communities working to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by helping to create and stabilize places that are equitable, healthy, and resilient, and provide ongoing economic, environmental, and social benefits.

OAPA appreciates the years of Legislative effort to address climate change and is encouraged by the introduction of legislation this session. Elements of SB 1530-27 that we, as a planning organization, would like to highlight as critical elements of the bill, consistent with our past testimony, are:

- Providing for the use of Transportation Decarbonization Funds for local governments developing and implementing metropolitan climate plans. We recommend the Department of Land Conservation and Development as the reviewing authority for these plans.
- The methodology for designating impacted communities (Section 33) is strongly written and easily understood, and that there is inclusion of impacted communities in the decision making process (Section 97).
- Recognizing eligible Indian tribes in the bill.
- Prioritizing impacted communities and eligible Indian tribes in determining projects for the Transportation Decarbonization Investments Fund and Climate Investments Fund.
- Recognizing the importance of natural and working lands and allocation of 25 percent distributed to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for uses that benefit natural and working lands and 25 percent to the State Forestry Department for wildfire mitigation efforts is appropriate.

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**Oregon Chapter President**  
Aaron Ray, AICP



OAPA supports SB 1530-27 because it strongly aligns with OAPA's adopted legislative priorities to support state action to address climate change (available [here](#)), including:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the effects of climate change and implement strategies that support a transition toward low-carbon communities. OAPA supports efforts to reduce GHG emissions through land use and community design, natural resource protection and enhancement, and continuing improvement in transit and transportation choice.
- Plan for and implement strategies to improve the health, safety, and resilience of our communities. OAPA supports policies, funding for planning and coordination, and technical assistance that help state, regional, and local government to develop and implement integrated strategies to reduce risk and improve the ability of communities adapt to climate change.
- Fund planning for and the development of infrastructure. Access to financial and technical resources is important for successful planning to minimize costs and ensure infrastructure is designed to support a community's immediate and long-term goals in light of climate change impacts, and increased occurrence of weather-related natural disasters.

OAPA supports SB 1530-27 because it strongly aligns with our members' values. Our members work and live in Oregon communities in all regions of the Oregon landscape. They have seen first-hand impacts due to climate change such as rain patterns that are causing more frequent flooding and hazardous slide areas, droughts, wildfires, heat waves, and ocean acidification. This increased vulnerability to natural hazards increases the urgency of building resilience and reducing the vulnerability of Oregon's communities, businesses, and the built and natural infrastructure to withstand challenges — environmental, economic, and social.

Our members work every day in their respective communities to implement today's plans and to create plans for future decades. Planners have a unique lens to see the interconnectedness of challenges and opportunities that face communities. As an association of planners, OAPA understands the intertwined challenges of climate change, social inequity, economic uncertainty, degraded natural systems, and the rising cost of living demand responses that go far beyond cutting carbon. We support integrated solutions to address these challenges, with an emphasis on environmental justice and lessening impacts on vulnerable communities, including rural Oregonians.

While supporting SB 1530, OAPA simultaneously recognizes this bill will not address all of our concerns about climate change. The State needs to take a number of other actions now and in the future to ensure that Oregon remains at the forefront of addressing climate change and the resiliency of our communities in a fair and effective manner. We encourage you to consider actions that include:

- Strongly linking the State Planning Program goals to Oregon's Greenhouse Gas Initiative goals.
- Holding polluters to increasingly more rigid GHG allowances in a way that minimizes the impact on lower income Oregonians.
- Eliminating subsidies for urban sprawl and unjustified highway expansion and redirecting them to climate smart development and low cost transit.
- Making climate smart agricultural and forest practices the rule not the exception.



- Enabling local communities to implement aggressive renewable energy and energy efficiency jobs programs and create more climate resilient communities.

Passing SB 1530 will be a tremendous accomplishment. OAPA is proud of Oregon's leadership in climate change action and we look forward to working with you in implementing the program. We also look forward to working with you in future sessions to add more tools to more fully address Oregon's responsibility to address the climate crisis in a just, healthful, and robust manner.

Thank you for your time and attention to our testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Ray', is positioned above the typed name.

Aaron Ray, AICP, President  
Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Damian Syrnyk', is positioned above the typed name.

Damian Syrnyk, AICP, Chair  
Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee