



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

February 17, 2023

Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
Senator Janeen Sollman, Chair
Senator Lynn Findley, Co-Chair

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) in Support of SB 522

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of SB 522 related to the role of the Oregon Global Warming Commission in achieving State GHG emission reduction goals.

OAPA is a nonprofit professional membership organization of over 800 planners and those who work with planning in formulating and implementing development and conservation policies at the state and local level. OAPA works to create sustainable and vibrant Oregon communities through professional development, advocacy for sound planning, providing resources to meet the challenges of growth and change, and embracing and promoting diversity, inclusion and equity.

Our support of SB 522 stems from the OAPA priority policy that "Oregon Needs To Act Now To Confront Climate Change". We know that climate change impacts every Oregonian. Oregon is experiencing rising temperatures and extreme heat; drought; extreme precipitation and flooding; wildfires; rising sea levels; vegetation changes; ocean acidification; and slope stability. All over the state these events are impacting homes and businesses; economies; public infrastructure; and public health.

Key elements of the bill that OAPA supports as needed to confront climate change by reducing GHG emissions include:

- Renaming the commission to the Oregon Climate Action Commission, which better describes the role of the commission and the urgency of its work.
- Setting a new interim GHG reduction goal for 2035 and increasing the goal for 2050. This better expresses the urgency of the mitigation actions needed.
- Increasing the membership of the OCAC and specifically adding a member with significant experience in environmental justice and adding a youth representative as a member. Incorporating the engagement of those most impacted by climate change will result in better outcomes of the OCAC's decision-making on those communities typically underrepresented in State

decision-making.

- Adding a number of State agencies as ex-officio members that recognizes that role of acting to mitigate climate and address climate change is required by the many sectors of state government. We especially are pleased to see the addition of the Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). As a land use planning community OAPA well understands the nexus between Oregon's achieving climate mitigation goals and how lands are planned to be used.
- Requiring those state agencies who are members of the OCAC to report at least once a year on their progress towards GHG emission reductions. This is important as accountability on the part of those state agencies and to inform OCAC in executing its duties.
- Acknowledging that sequestration of carbon is not limited to forests but can be achieved on natural and working lands.

Again we thank you for the opportunity to express OAPA's support of SB 522.

Sincerely,



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President, Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association
Relevant Resources, Better Planners, Exceptional Communities