



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

February 22, 2023

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Representative Dacia Grayber, Chair

Representative Rick Lewis, Co-Vice-Chair

Representative Thuy Tran, Co-Vice-Chair

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) in Support of House Bill 2650

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Lewis and Tran, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 2650 related to inclusion of certain communities on state work groups and task forces.

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 HB 2650 stems from the OAPA priority policy to “Advance racial equity” by making deliberate efforts to advance racial equity and combat systemic racism in the state.

OAPA supports promoting equitable community engagement to explicitly elevate the voices of communities of color and other traditionally underrepresented groups. This means that community leaders and representatives of such groups are proactively engaged and have meaningful and inclusive opportunities to participate in decision making.

HB 2650 is specific about the inclusion of community-based organizations, community members, impacted persons and persons of color on State informal workgroups and task forces. It also provides that members be compensated for time and travel. OAPA believes that HB 2650’s approach does advance racial equity and will result in better outcomes for all Oregonians.

Recently OAPA was represented on the Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) for the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities rulemaking by the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). The RAC included several community members that, in the past, were not typically included in similar

rulemaking. It is our understanding that DLCD supported some of the members by providing stipends. Our experience was this inclusion made for better rulemaking and resulted in more inclusive rules that will result in better outcomes for all Oregonians. This experience supports enacting HB 2650.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to express OAPA's support of HB 2650.

Sincerely,



Aaron Ray, AICP ([he/him/his](#)) <president@oregonapa.org>
President, Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association
Relevant Resources, Better Planners, Exceptional Communities