



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

February 4, 2025

TO: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) in Support of **Senate Bill 5528** and Additional Comments/Requests

Dear Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Levy and members of the committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 5528, related to the budget of the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD).

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.

OAPA's membership collaborates with DLCD as cities and counties comprehensively plan for today and future generations. OAPA knows first-hand the critical need for the agency to have the staffing and resources needed to administer the Statewide planning program and to provide technical and financial assistance to cities and counties to support good planning and to meet the State's expectations on such issues as housing production and affordability, climate change and resource lands.

As we move forward into the next biennium, we advocate for a DLCD budget that has the resources needed to address OAPA's land use planning priorities: *address the housing supply and housing affordability crisis; confront climate change and its impacts; promote safe and equitable transportation systems; protect and support Oregon's planning program; and modernize public engagement in Oregon's land use planning program.*

OAPA **supports** the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) as a baseline for DLCD's budget in the coming biennium. The GRB provides DLCD funding at its current service level, which includes continuing the added staff and resources from

the current biennium to help meet the requirements of OHNA and support HAPO. The GRB also includes a number of Policy Option Packages (POPs) (100, 501, 503, 505, 506 and 507) that are focused on supporting local government's housing efforts. Also included is POP (504) to fund technical assistance for local government wetlands planning.

OAPA **requests** funding for POP 500 that DLCD requested in its Agency Request Budget, but which was not included in the GRB. POP 500 provides creating GIS capacity for housing and other agency land use planning responsibilities. DLCD has documented that they have "experienced historic underinvestment in its data systems" resulting in "significant data gaps." As planners, we know that it is critical to use data-driven analysis in land use planning and decision making. GIS is a tool that will allow the agency and communities to visualize and analyze data to help solve spatial problems and make smarter decisions.

In addition, OAPA is **advocating** for HB 2950 to be prioritized in DLCD's funding this session — to modernize public participation in land use planning. HB 2950 would require formation of an advisory committee to work with DLCD to audit Statewide Planning Goal 1, leading to the Land Conservation and Development Commission's (LCDC) adoption of amendments to Goal 1 and rules for its implementation. Since its adoption in 1975, Goal 1 has not been updated, nor have any administrative rules been adopted. While Goal 1's purpose is "the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process," there are many documented shortcomings to achieving its purpose. In recent years, DLCD, LCDC and its Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee work plans have included updating Goal 1. DLCD requested a POP in 2023 for this work, which went unfunded. HB 2950 will help DLCD finally make this goal amendment happen and OAPA urges its prioritization in this session's budget process.

Thank you for considering OAPA's testimony on SB 5528.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Harker
Chair, Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee
Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association
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