

Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and members of the committee:

My name is Vanitha Murthy. I am writing to testify and express my support for HB 2950, which would modernize Statewide Planning Goal 1 through a comprehensive advisory committee process. I support this legislation as an independent transportation planning practitioner working at the intersection of transportation planning and equity. I am very grateful that your committee, with its crucial role in shaping our state's future, is taking up this issue during this session.

Despite the adoption of Goal 1 in 1975, our land use decisions continue to overlook critical perspectives from marginalized communities, particularly people of color, low- and moderate-income residents, individuals with disabilities, those who live in isolated rural areas and underserved communities, renters, and other historically underrepresented groups, who often lack the resources needed to thrive and age in place. This urgent issue continues to result in inequitable outcomes in local government plans today.

As a planning professional with over twenty years of experience, I have gained insights into our state's land use goals and implementation. Public participation is vital to the success of our state's land use planning program, which should be equitable, achievable and standardized across the state.

With meaningful discussions on transportation, housing, and environmental policies in this session, ensuring that our state has an equitable, accountable, and efficient public engagement process for its land use decisions is essential.

HB 2950 offers hope by providing direction and resources for DLCD and LCDC to modernize Goal 1. This goal, which has remained unchanged for 50 years, is long overdue for an update to reflect advancements in participation technology, outreach techniques, inclusivity practices, and identifying barriers to public

participation. The potential positive impact of this legislation is significant and inspiring.

For these compelling reasons, **I strongly urge your support for HB 2950**. This legislation is crucial to a more equitable and inclusive land use planning process.

Thank you,

Vanitha Murthy, AICP, PTP