



February 13, 2025

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

From: Deanna Palm, President and CEO of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce

Re: Opposition to House Bill 2950

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice Chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, I write to express our **opposition to HB 2950** as drafted. While we support public involvement in land use planning, this bill risks further entrenching opposition tactics that have already slowed or blocked critical housing and economic development projects.

Oregon is in the midst of a severe housing crisis. Rather than facilitating solutions, HB 2950 amplifies barriers by expanding opportunities for procedural delays, increasing uncertainty for developers, and failing to include key industry voices in its advisory group. If we are to meet the state's housing production targets, we must focus on reducing—not increasing—bureaucratic obstacles.

**Our Key Concerns:**

- **Public engagement should not be a tool for obstruction.** Excessive appeals and opposition already stall development, driving up costs and delaying much-needed housing.
- **The advisory group lacks industry representation.** Homebuilding, industrial development, agritourism, and renewable energy sectors must have a seat at the table to ensure balanced policymaking.
- Community opposition to new housing must be addressed, not amplified. **Goal 1 reform should focus on streamlining housing approvals and ensuring a fair process**, rather than expanding opportunities for resistance.

**A Better Approach:**

If Goal 1 is to be amended, reforms must prioritize efficiency, fairness, and the inclusion of key stakeholders. We urge lawmakers to **reject HB 2950** as written and instead focus on solutions that accelerate housing production and economic development.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions and appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this critical issue.

Respectfully yours,  
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President & CEO  
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