

February 13, 2025
Co-Chairs Helm and Owens
House Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources, Land Use, and Water
900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

RE: Modernizing Goal 1

The League of Oregon cities is opposed to HB 2950 as currently written; we understand and support the intent to improve transparency, promote public involvement in the land use planning process, as well as update and modernize outdated requirements like newspaper notices. However, there are multiple items of concern in this bill:

- **Advisory Committee Membership:** The advisory committee needs to be balanced, including the inclusion of League of Oregon Cities and Association of Oregon Counties membership, to ensure that there is adequate representation of our cities and counties, the implementers of this work. Without balance we risk further burdening those who implement and practice this work.
- **Timelines:** This body of work overlaps with other recent legislative changes and ongoing rulemaking efforts, the same parties in that work, the Department of Land Conservation and Development and our local planners, will be asked to engage in this work. Our local planners are the key practitioners and implementers of this work, they are already frequently under-resourced and have limited capacity, this measure will only contribute to that as currently written.

We understand that there are forthcoming amendments that may address some of these concerns, however we have not yet seen final language.

We encourage and support modernization of Goal 1, however as currently written the advisory body is currently too broad and risks unintended consequences. Oregon is facing a housing crisis. According to the most recent Oregon Housing Needs Analysis Oregon needs to build 29,500 homes per year, we must focus our energies on strategies that encourage proactive, needed housing production. We question whether broad changes to Goal 1 will forward needed housing production or whether it will only provide further avenues to stifle development.

Thank you for your consideration.

