

February 22, 2025

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and Members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans:

We, the undersigned organizations, support HB 3062 and applaud both the leadership and collaborative approach taken to double down on proactive planning efforts in order to better protect the lives, livelihoods, and future of Oregonians.

HB 3062, with anticipated amendments created in consultation with League of Oregon Cities, Association of Oregon Counties, and the Planning Healthy Communities coalition, simplifies and streamlines an existing land use process - zoning and zoning verification - for limited situations whereby industrial uses are co-located within 1000 feet of homes, schools, and care facilities. The improved rezoning and zoning verification process enables local communities to not only consider the anticipated negative impacts between the permissible zoning uses but for developers, community representatives, and local government to act in concert with one another to proactively plan and mitigate any negative anticipated impacts.

When planned and mitigated properly, uses occurring in industrial and residentially zoned lands near each other can contribute to the economy, consumer welfare, and the environment. But, too often, for a variety of reasons, zoning can fail to account for the health, well-being, and safety of certain neighborhoods located near industrial development. And, also important, zoning can fail to account for the productivity, operations, and safety of people working in industrial areas that are suddenly rezoned with patches of commercial and/or residential uses. HB 3062 helps Oregon communities approach this important balancing act with more information and agency up front before demolition, construction, or harms occur to the companies, residents, students, and/or teachers.

We believe this is an important step to ensure we can build prosperous, healthy, and vibrant communities, recruit new and important industries as part of a diversified economy with high-quality jobs for all Oregonians, and steward our environment for clean water, air, and soils for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this important measure to improve the lives of Oregonians.

Planning Healthy Communities Act Coalition

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