



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

February 26, 2025

House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Re: **HB 3031-1**

Position: Support

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of HB 3031 with its -1 amendments, on behalf of the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association.

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (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.

The -1 amendments for HB 3031 provide for creating a housing infrastructure financing program to provide grants, loans or forgivable loans to cities, counties, county service districts and federally recognized Indian tribal councils that primarily supports housing development. Such housing development must be within an UGB and meet minimum specified densities. To qualify for a grant or a forgivable loan the housing must be affordable to households with very low income, low income or moderate income.

OAPA's support of HB 3031-1 is based on an OAPA priority to support legislation that addresses the housing supply and housing affordability crisis. We advocate for solutions to increase long-term housing availability, affordability, and choices for Oregonians statewide. Specifically we support legislation that addresses financing

needed infrastructure to facilitate housing development in areas within urban growth boundaries.

Infrastructure is the foundation of economic growth, social mobility, public safety and community resilience, making it a paramount consideration for local jurisdictions seeking to expand their housing supply. However, as we have experienced, limited financial resources for the infrastructure needed for new development poses significant barriers for local governments. For many communities, this can be the deciding factor for whether new housing can be built. State support is critical for funding and financing needed infrastructure for overcoming the financial barriers to producing needed housing.

OAPA strongly supports the inclusion of tribal councils among those entities eligible for the program. It also strongly supports prioritizing grants and forgivable loans for affordable housing development.

Thank you for considering OAPA's testimony in support of HB 3031-1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jonathan Harker".

Jonathan Harker

Chair, Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee
Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association
www.oregonapa.org