



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

March 26, 2025

Senate Committee on Rules

Re: SJR 28

Position: Support

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and members of the committee:

I am writing in support of SJR 28, 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.

SJR 28 is a legislative referral to the voters which would amend the Oregon Constitution relating to a right to a clean, safe and healthy environment.

OAPA support of this legislative action is based on our knowledge that institutional practices have profound impact on achieving sustainable communities. It supports taking the actions needed to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations to help create and stabilize places that are equitable, healthy, and resilient and provide ongoing economic, environmental, and social benefits.

OAPA advocates for legislation that promotes equitable, integrated strategies at the state and local level to reduce risk and improve the ability of all individuals, communities, and the natural and built environments to withstand, recover from,

and adapt to changes from natural hazards, climate change, human-made disasters, and economic shifts.

OAPA advocates for addressing climate change and supports adding a Plan Goal 20 to ensure that land use planning actions at both State and Local levels will address GHG emissions, carbon sequestration and community resilience to climate change effects as part of land use planning decision-making.

SJR 28 is consistent with OAPA's legislative priorities of modernizing public engagement; addressing the housing supply and affordability crisis; confronting climate change and its impacts; promoting safe and equitable transportation; and supporting Oregon's planning program.

OAPA encourages passage of SJR 28 as it will promote taking critical actions needed to support a healthy environment for Oregonians today and in the future. Thank you for considering OAPA's testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Harker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jonathan Harker, AICP

Chair, Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee

Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association

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