



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

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Making Great Communities Happen

February 22, 2015

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association on SB 25

Dear Chair Edwards, Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) represents over 800 professional and citizen planners in the State of Oregon and offers this testimony in opposition to SB 25. For the following reasons OAPA recommends a Do Not Pass recommendation from the Committee.

1. There is no need for this legislation. The Legislature is not required to solve a problem, because no problem has been defined that requires certain counties to be exempt from complying with Oregon's land use laws. OAPA supports economic development in rural areas of Oregon, like that described in Section 1 of this bill. However, there is no connection made in this bill between economic development and job creation in rural parts of Oregon that requires a plan that does not comply with the goals or state law. For example, economic development and job growth has been occurring in areas of Central Oregon and all three counties and the cities within Central Oregon have acknowledged comprehensive plans.
2. The legislation is contrary to State law. All cities and counties in Oregon must have comprehensive plans and implementing land use regulations that comply with the applicable goals and state law. No case has been made that counties with a population of less than 50,000 need relief in order to support economic development and job creation.
3. The legislation has on its face a goal of giving certain counties an advantage over others in business expansion, job creation, and economic development. As indicated earlier in our testimony, other parts of rural Oregon, including Central Oregon for example, have experience job creation, economic development, and business expansion in area with acknowledged comprehensive plans.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jason Franklin'.

Jason Franklin, AICP, President
Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association