



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

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Making Great Communities Happen

May 12, 2015

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association on HB 2938

Chair Beyer and Members of the Business and Transportation Committee:

The Oregon chapter of the American Planning Association represents over 800 professional and citizen planners in Oregon. The organization supports state policies and legislation that foster good community planning.

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association opposes House Bill 2938 for the following reasons. First, the bill has the potential to interfere with cities and counties jointly planning for urbanization under Statewide Planning Goal 14, Urbanization. Cities and counties often enter into intergovernmental agreements to govern the process for urbanizing land in urban growth boundaries (UGBs), including the process a city may use to annex property once included in a UGB. HB 2938, as proposed, could interfere with existing agreements between cities and counties that have already executed an intergovernmental agreement approved by the governing body of each local government. OAPA is also concerned that HB 2938 could impede the ability of local governments to plan for a logical and orderly extension of services and urbanization.

In addition, state law already governs how annexations are to occur under ORS Chapter 222. The bill does not propose a solution to a problem that requires legislative action. If the parties supporting the bill are trying to prevent a local government from misusing annexation authority under ORS 222, and potentially executed through an intergovernmental agreement, OAPA would appreciate the opportunity to review any amendments that would address the issue to ensure the bill doesn't create undue hardships for local governments that are already following state law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Franklin'.

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