



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

PO Box 28454 Portland, OR 97228
PHONE: (503) 626-8197

oapa@oregonapa.org • <http://www.oregonapa.org>

Making Great Communities Happen

February 19, 2016

Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association in Support of HB 4036 A

Chair Beyer and Members of the Senate Committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) is an independent, statewide, not-for-profit educational organization with 850 members that provides leadership in fostering vital communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and citizen empowerment, and providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change.

OAPA urges the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation to pass HB 4036A out to consideration by the full Senate.

Simply stated, Oregon needs to take strong action to move toward meeting our adopted climate change goals. The science regarding climate change associated with global warming is clear. It is expected that calendar year 2015 was the warmest year yet on record (*Countdown to 2050, Sharpening Oregon's Climate Action Tools*, Green Energy Institute at Lewis & Clark University (Powers et al. 2015)). At great risk are industries at the bedrock of Oregon's economy – farming, forestry, fisheries and tourism, as well as our quality of life. Oregonians across the state are already feeling the impacts of this warming through wildfires, drought, and species loss (*Countdown to 2050*). More severe storms, greater flooding, damage to infrastructure and other costly impacts are clearly documented in Oregon's *Global Warming Assessment* (2010). Climate scientists predict many more severe consequences if climate change continues unabated. From the Governor's Task Force on Global Warming in 2007 to the Oregon Sustainable Transportation Initiative (OSTI) and associated Sustainable Transportation Strategy, and most recently the summary report published by Lewis and Clark Law School *Countdown to 2050*, the path and steps are clear. One critical step would be accomplished in passing this bill - moving off greenhouse gas producing industries and fuels, and more toward renewable industries.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeannine Rustad'.

Jeannine Rustad, JD, President
Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association