



American Planning Association  
**Oregon Chapter**

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*Making Great Communities Happen*

February 7, 2019

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Senator Kathleen Taylor, Co-Chair

Representative Jeff Reardon, Co-Chair

900 Court Street NE

Salem, OR 97301

[jwmnr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:jwmnr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association in Support of House Bill 5027 and House Bill 2075

Dear Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and Members of the Subcommittee:

This letter provides testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) on HB 5027 and HB 2075. OAPA is an independent not-for-profit membership organization of over 950 planners from cities, counties, and metropolitan areas across the state. OAPA provides leadership in the development of thriving communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and resident empowerment, and providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change.

OAPA supports the passage of both HB 5027 and HB 2075.

HB 5027 provides funding to Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) for its proposed 2019-21 Governor's Budget, including technical assistance grant programs that help local and tribal governments to improve planning in their communities. One of OAPA's 2019 Legislative Priorities is to "Promote and advocate for an Oregon planning program that works for all communities." An important part of this priority is ensuring the availability of funding, resources, tools, and expertise to support good planning and foster great communities, including the update and maintenance of comprehensive plans and land use regulations. OAPA supports passage of HB 5027 to enable continued provision of needed technical assistance grants.

HB 2075 bill provides the opportunity for the State to support planning for housing and economic development through the establishment a Development Readiness Fund at DLCD. OAPA supports the creation of the Development Readiness Program and the arguments made in support of its passage from DLCD, including funding through the related budget request under HB 5027, Policy Option Package 101, which would allocate \$1.35M to support housing and economic development planning for local governments. "Improve housing affordability and availability" and "fund planning for and the development of infrastructure" are two of

OAPA's five 2019 legislative priorities, with financial and technical assistance being key. OAPA supports the availability of funding to support local plans and for needed public infrastructure integral to the development of housing and jobs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on HB 2075. OAPA recommends the Committee vote both HB 5027 and HB 2075 out with Do Pass recommendations.



Kirsten Tilleman, President  
Board of Directors



Damian Syrnyk, Chair  
Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee