



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

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Making Great Communities Happen

April 4, 2019

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
senr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association in Support of SB 928

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

This letter provides testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) in support of SB 928. OAPA is an independent, statewide, not-for-profit membership organization of over 950 planners from across the state working for cities, counties, special districts, state agencies, community-based organizations, and private firms. OAPA provides leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and resident empowerment, and by providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change.

OAPA appreciates that the State Legislature is taking action to address climate change. Our Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee has been tracking development of such legislation, submitting testimony in late 2018 and early 2019 to the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction in support of HB 2020, as well as to the Governor and Carbon Policy Office in support of the formation of the Oregon Climate Authority, and continues to closely review progress. In the continuing absence of federal progress, we are hopeful that Oregon will join other states in taking significant actions to curb greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, reduce climate change impacts, and invest in a more sustainable and resilient future.

OAPA supports the establishment of one entity to provide comprehensive state leadership on climate change, greenhouse gas mitigation and the transition to low-carbon, clean energy resources, as proposed in SB 928. We believe the creation of the Oregon Climate Authority and Oregon Climate Board is an important step in making progress toward meeting the State's climate change goals. We support giving the Oregon Climate Authority, with oversight of the Oregon Climate Board, a critical supervisory role in coordinating the existing and future work of state agencies aimed at reducing GHG emissions and moving toward state goals related to clean energy, energy conservation, and energy safety and resilience. However, OAPA would like more clarity about how the Oregon Climate Authority and Board will interact with the Carbon Policy Office, Oregon Climate Action Program, and Joint Committee on Climate Action as proposed in HB 2020.

OAPA suggests that the work of the Oregon Climate Authority and Board continue to build off existing plans and programs aimed at meeting the State's GHG emissions reduction targets, and advance the work of the Oregon Global Warming Commission, which has laid a strong, sector-based framework, including monitoring and enforcement, for achieving the state's climate change goals. Specifically, we suggest that responsibilities be assigned to agencies to meet and report on the sector-based strategies

identified in *Roadmap 2020*, with principal responsibility for meeting state-adopted GHG reduction goals assigned to the relevant agencies. The Oregon Climate Authority should have the responsibility to negotiate with these agencies to establish progress benchmarks and a reporting process on established benchmarks – whether they are meeting the benchmarks or not, and if not, why not, with associated recommended corrective solutions.

Thank you for your time and attention to our testimony.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Tilleman, President
Board of Directors



Damian Syrnyk, Chair
Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee