



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

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Making Great Communities Happen

May 16, 2019

Sen. Michael Dembrow and Rep. Karin Power, Co-Chairs
Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
jccr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association in Support of HB 2020-94

Dear Co-Chairs Dembrow and Power and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) firmly supports HB 2020-94.

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, tribes, 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 supports sustainable communities working to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by helping to create and stabilize places that are equitable, healthy, and resilient, and provide ongoing economic, environmental, and social benefits.

OAPA appreciates that the hard work done by the JCCR in drafting HB 2020-94 that culminates several years of Legislative effort. We encourage the Committee to pass it out of committee with an endorsement of adoption of an Oregon Climate Action Program that will help curb greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, reduce climate change impacts, and invest in a more sustainable future.

Some elements of HB 2020-94 that we, as a planning organization, would like to highlight as critical elements of the bill, including one proposed amendment to Section 44 consistent with our past testimony, are as follows:

- Addressing impacted communities is important. The methodology for designating impacted communities (Section 33) is strongly written.
- Recognizing eligible Indian tribes in the bill is important.
- Prioritizing impacted communities and eligible Indian tribes in determining projects for the Transportation Decarbonization Investments Fund, Climate Investments Fund, and offset funds is important. Allocating at least 40% and 10% respectively of Climate Investments is appropriate.
- Recognizing the importance of natural and working lands is a valuable component of the program and an allocation at least 20% of the Climate Investments Fund is appropriate.
- Implementing existing and developing new Scenario Plans as a priority of the Transportation Decarbonization Investments Fund is positive. However, there is one specific area in which some additional language can help add accountability of local governments to invest the transportation funds in a manner that will help to achieve the overall goals of the program, while further supporting legislation started in 2010 to address GHG emissions from the transportation sector. As ORS 184.893

provides voluntary guidelines, which are not binding and do not ensure accountability, OAPA recommends the following amendment to Section 44 (5) (e) (B) of HB 2020-94 to read:

The planning, development or implementation of land use and transportation scenarios by local governments and metropolitan planning organizations that **have been approved by the Land Conservation and Development Commission**. ~~in accordance with the guidelines established by the Department of Transportation and the Department of Land Conservation and Development under ORS 184.893.~~

- Prioritizing projects in both the Transportation Decarbonization and Climate Change Investments Funds that promote low carbon economic development and for the creation of jobs that sustain living wages and the use of the Just Transition Fund for projects that support economic diversification, job creation, job training, etc. to support workers dislocated or adversely affected by climate change policies are critical for Oregon's resiliency moving forward.
- Public participation is critical in the successful implementation of the bill and the diverse membership in and roles of the various advisory committees outlined in HB 2020-94 are notable. For example, the Oregon Climate Board, compliance offsets program advisory committee, and the Environmental Justice Task Force review of the biennial climate action investment plan.
- The strong reporting program included in HB 2020-94 is laudable. As planners we recognize the importance of monitoring the progress of plans and reporting to decision makers so that corrections can be made as time goes by.

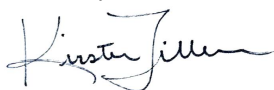
While supporting HB 2020-94, OAPA simultaneously recognizes that this bill will not address all our concerns about climate change. The state needs to take a number of other actions now and in the future to ensure that Oregon remains at the forefront of addressing climate change and the resiliency of our communities in a fair and effective manner. We encourage you to consider actions that include:

- More strongly linking the State Planning Program goals to the Oregon Climate Action Program goals.
- Holding all polluters to increasingly more rigid GHG allowances in a way that minimizes the impact on lower income Oregonians.
- Eliminating subsidies for urban sprawl and highway expansion and redirecting them to climate smart development and low cost transit.
- Making climate smart agricultural and forest practices the rule not the exception.
- Enabling local communities to implement aggressive renewable energy and energy efficiency jobs programs and create more climate resilient communities.

Passing HB2020-94 will be a tremendous accomplishment. OAPA is proud of Oregon's leadership in climate change action and we look forward to working with you in implementing the program. We also look forward to working with you in future sessions to add more tools to Oregon Climate Action Program to more fully address Oregon's responsibility to address the climate crisis in a just, healthful, and robust manner.

Thank you for your time and attention to our testimony.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Tilleman, AICP, President
Board of Directors



Damian Syrnnyk, AICP, Chair
Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee