



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

February 16, 2021

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Senator Kathleen Taylor, Co-Chair
Representative Jeff Reardon, Co-Chair
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association in Support of
Senate Bill 5530

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

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) supports the passage of SB 5530. OAPA is an independent, statewide, not-for-profit educational organization of more than 800 planners from across the state who work for cities, counties, special districts, state agencies, tribes, community-based organizations, universities, and private firms, that provides leadership in the development of vital 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 sustainable communities and works 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.

SB 5530 appropriates funding from the General Fund to the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) for the 2021-23 biennium. The appropriation includes funding for staffing and operations, and it includes funding for technical assistance grant programs that help local and tribal governments to improve planning in their communities. This aligns with one of OAPA's 2021 Legislative Priorities: "Advocate for the Oregon planning program." An important part of achieving this outcome 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. SB 5530 also enables continued provision of needed technical assistance grants.

OAPA further supports the passage of SB 5530 to ensure funding of three (3) key policy option packages (POPs) included in the Governor's proposed budget. Two of these POPs address OAPA's 2021 Legislative Priorities to "Confront Climate Change." POP 111, Climate Adaptation, includes \$573,070 for staff and completing the Oregon Climate Vulnerability Assessment. POP 112, Climate Mitigation, includes \$1,000,000 for both staffing and grants to local governments. Both of these POPs are critical to address climate change and provide both technical and financial assistance to local governments to confront climate change. Finally, POP 110, Housing Planning, includes \$3,904,344 for both staffing and local assistance grants to implement both HB 2001 and HB 2003 from the 2019 Session. OAPA supports including POP 110 in the final budget for DLCD to achieve one of OAPA's 2021 Legislative Priorities to "Address the Housing Crisis."

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In addition to the POPs, the Governor's DLCD budget Package 90 Equity Initiatives includes \$800,000 GF to address environmental justice in land use, with the Land Conservation and Development Commission and DLCD leading a review of Oregon's Statewide Land Use Planning Goals and development of new rules for environmental justice, equity, and climate. OAPA supports the funding of this critical work as Oregon needs to act now to confront climate change. More needs to be done to mitigate climate change and to help communities adapt and become more resilient to its impacts, while addressing the inequitable impacts of climate change to vulnerable communities.

OAPA specifically supports creating a new Statewide Planning Goal and/or updating existing goals to meaningfully address climate change, prioritizing planning for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) community members and other vulnerable communities, and centering their voices when developing policy. OAPA believes that anti-racism needs to be centered in policy and planning work in Oregon. Deliberate efforts need to be made to advance racial equity and combat systemic racism in the state. OAPA supports changes to public engagement processes and Statewide Planning Goal 1 (Citizen Involvement) to explicitly advance anti-racism and elevate the voices of BIPOC and other traditionally-underrepresented communities, including changing the name of the goal to remove the word "Citizen".

Providing resources for DLCD to carry out any legislative directive is critical and supports a OAPA's legislative priority for increased funding and technical resources for local, regional, and state agencies engaged in planning work, including the Department of Land Conservation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on SB 5530. OAPA recommends the Committee vote the bill out with a Do Pass recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Ray'.

Aaron Ray, AICP, President
Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Eunice Kim'.

Eunice Kim, AICP, Chair
Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee