



February 22, 2021

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

RE: Support for SB 5530

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for SB 5530. The LOC supports the 2021-2023 Governors Recommend Budget for the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), with particular emphasis on Housing Planning (POP 110), Climate Mitigation (POP 112), and Equity Initiatives (Package 90).

The League of Oregon Cities (LOC) represents all 241 cities across Oregon, which implement Oregon's statewide land use goals through local comprehensive planning. Oregon's planning laws strongly emphasize coordination -- keeping plans and programs consistent with each other, with the goals, as statutes are updated, and with acknowledged local plans. Such coordination is not possible without a fully funded and staffed Department of Land Conservation and Development.

POP 110 – Housing Planning

The 2019 Legislature enacted HB 2001 and HB 2003, which made landmark advancements in how local communities plan for and encourage needed housing and have the potential to overcome decades of exclusionary planning and development policies. The LOC was a committed member of the Rules Advisory Committee that worked tirelessly over the last year to inform the rules for these landmark bills and brought an overdue racial justice and equity focus to housing planning in our state. However, that progress has yet to be fully implemented. The talented housing staff at DLCD are essential to support local implementation and ensure that the requirements of HB 2001 and HB 2003 are met. These bills were also passed with the intention that they be accompanied by technical assistance funding to enable cities to meet these new requirements and support important local community discussions on housing needs and goals. We have so much potential to continue the momentum from the RAC, not just for these new programs, but for housing policy at DLCD, across state agencies, and at the local level. This work cannot continue without staff and local technical assistance.

POP 112 – Climate Mitigation

The LOC is also an engaged participant in the Department's Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities rulemaking process, which aims to reduce climate pollution in the transportation sector and promote more affordable, equitable development. POP 112 includes critical resources to support cities and counties within the metropolitan areas that will directed to implement these new rules in late 2021.

Package 90 – Equity Initiatives

Finally, the LOC supports the Equity Initiatives in Package 90, particularly the technical and financial assistance to enable rural communities to access state and federal pass through funding for pedestrian, bicycle and transit projects by applying an equity lens to data, mapping, outreach and engagement best practices.

Thank you for your consideration, we urge your support for SB 5530 and the Department's requested POPs.

Sincerely,
Ariel Nelson, League of Oregon Cities