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Sent Via Electronic Mail

Representative Ken Helm
Representative Annessa Hartman
Representative Mark Owens
Representative Court Boice
Representative Mark Gamba

Representative Bobby Levy
Representative Pam Marsh
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Anna Scharf

Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB 2659

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

The following testimony is provided for the public hearing on House Bill 2659 set for the Committee's meeting tomorrow.

Following several terms in the Oregon House of Representatives I served from 2009 to 2017 on the Land Conservation and Development Commission, including as Chair for the last three of those years. The Commission oversees Oregon's system of statewide land use planning. In that role it is a key player in implementing policies to address climate change and promote development of affordable housing for Oregonians

To advance those policies the Commission adopted rules establishing standards for the eight major urban areas of the state. The rules were adopted after extensive public engagement, and are designed to integrate land use and transportation planning to reduce global greenhouse emissions from transportation, the state's greatest source. The rules also ensure that the benefits of mixed-use, walkable, transit-served neighborhoods are accessible to all by providing for diverse housing options. HB 2659 would repeal those rules and replace them with weaker standards that will take until at least 2028 to be applied.

At a critical time for the health of the planet and access to affordable housing, HB 2659 is moving in the wrong direction. It is an attempt to continue past inaction on these critical issues.

Therefore, I urge the Committee not to move HB 2659 forward through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Gregory H. Macpherson

cc: Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS) testimony portal