



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

June 11, 2021

Senate President Peter Courtney
House Speaker Tina Kotek
Senator Betsy Johnson
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Representative Dan Rayfield
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Via email to: sen.petercourtney@oregonlegislature.gov; rep.TinaKotek@oregonlegislature.gov;
Sen.BetsyJohnson@oregonlegislature.gov; rep.danrayfield@oregonlegislature.gov;
sen.ElizabethSteinerHayward@oregonlegislature.gov

RE: Support for HB 2488 A and Requesting a Joint Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee Work Session from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association

Dear Senate President Courtney, House Speaker Kotek, and Co-Chairs Johnson, Rayfield, and Steiner Hayward:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) supports the passage of HB 2488 A. While OAPA is disappointed that the -2 amendments – which would have addressed climate change by creating a new Statewide Planning Goal as well as addressing equity in participation – were not adopted, we wholeheartedly support HB 2488 A.

HB 2488 A directs Oregon’s Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) to update Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 1 relating to “Citizen Involvement.” The bill was voted out of the House Energy & Environment Committee with a “do pass” recommendation and now sits in Ways & Means. However no Ways & Means meetings have been scheduled. OAPA strongly urges that HB 2488 A be passed out of Ways & Means and with an adequate appropriation, so that it can get the floor hearings that it deserves.

HB 2488 A would specifically direct governments to:

- Ensure opportunities for disadvantaged groups to participate in land use planning;
- Incorporate practices to engage the community on climate justice, environmental justice, and equity in land use planning; and
- Utilize technology not available in the 1970s to expand communications and exchange of information with the public around land use planning.

HB 2488 A aligns with [OAPA’s 2021 Legislative Priorities](#) to: **Advance racial equity**, specifically to make changes to public engagement processes and Statewide Planning Goal 1 (citizen involvement) to explicitly advance anti-racism and elevate the voices of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color



(BIPOC) and other traditionally-underrepresented communities; and **Advocate for the Oregon planning program**, particularly initiatives that set a high standard for good planning with authentic and meaningful community engagement.

Goal 1 is a cornerstone of state and local planning programs and requires local governments to undertake efforts to communicate and engage with their community on land use issues and decisions. While local governments are already implementing Goal 1, the goal has not been amended nor subject to rule-making since its adoption in 1975. This has been the case despite changes in technology and acknowledgments of the inaccessibility of public decision-making processes. Goal 1 needs to be updated to allow for and require modern outreach and communication methods to increase accessibility for underrepresented Oregonians and to ensure expanded rather than limited public input for all public members.

HB 2488 A directs the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to update Goal 1 for equity, environmental justice, and the use of critical communication technologies such as the internet and social media. Assistance for local governments is critical to achieving implementation of an updated Goal 1 in jurisdictions across the state.

During the House Energy and Environment work session, some committee members raised concern regarding resource needs by local governments to implement the amended Goal in subsequent biennia. OAPA shares this concern and wants to ensure DLCD has the adequate resources to assist local governments through grants, technical assistance and guidance in future years. To address this issue, OAPA, in collaboration with staff of the League of Oregon Cities and Association of Oregon Counties, suggests a budget note that would direct the agency to report resource needs for the implementation of HB 2488 A in the 2023 - 2025 biennium. OAPA suggests the following as an example:

BUDGET NOTE: With respect to the appropriation needed to assist local governments with planning services and planning grants for the implementation of HB 2488, the Department of Land Conservation and Development is directed to identify agency resource needs for the 2023-2025 biennium and to present a report to appropriate interim legislative committees by the end of January, 2023. In developing the report, DLCD is directed to seek recommendations from the Association of Oregon Counties and the League of Oregon Cities.

OAPA notes that the bill itself addresses the impacts to local governments in three ways:

1. The compliance schedule is phased with largest cities and counties due to be in compliance by June 30, 2024; next size by June 30, 2025; and the remaining by June 30, 2026;
2. Upon the request of any local government, LCDC shall grant a single 12-month extension for any local government; and
3. Upon the request of any local government, the LCDC shall grant an ongoing extension if the local government has been unable to receive funding to adopt and implement the amended goal.

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. We provide 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.

Goal 1 lacks equity, diversity, and inclusion elements and does not serve all Oregonians. It is way past time that land use and planning public participation be brought to modern times. Please support HB 2488 A moving forward, and do not lose this opportunity to enable inclusive, responsible, and equitable land use planning. OAPA thanks you for the opportunity to provide our recommendation to take actions to support HB 2488 A.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Ray', is positioned to the left of the signature block.

Aaron Ray, AICP, President
Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eunice Kim', is positioned to the right of the signature block.

Eunice Kim, AICP, Chair
Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee