BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

October 27, 2020

Shannon Singleton, Housing Policy Advisor, shannon.singleton@oregon.gov
Amira Streeter, Natural Resources Policy Advisor, amira.streeter@oregon.gov
Office of Governor Kate Brown

Re: Restore Funding for DLCD Staff Positions for Housing Implementation, Policy Option Package (POP) 110

Dear Ms. Singleton and Ms. Streeter:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) appreciates the hard work and inclusive engagement by the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) to develop administrative rules for HB 2001 and HB 2003. We recognize, however, that the work is not done, as local governments must now implement the rules. It is critical that they have the technical and human resources they need to do this important work to increase housing supply and options across Oregon. In response to the recent Analyst Recommended Budget, OAPA strongly urges that DLCD’s Policy Option Package (POP) 110 be approved as recently proposed, providing adequate funding for DLCD staff and technical assistance to support local governments.

OAPA understands the state’s budget deficit and is fully aware that DLCD has already reduced its budget, unfortunately eliminating projects for which the Chapter has been advocating. Further reduction of all of DLCD’s POPs would severely limit the agency’s ability to support local governments in implementing state legislative mandates.

Specifically, POP 110 would allow for implementation of House Bill 2001 – middle housing requirements – for local governments, especially those with less capacity. It carries $1.5 million in request for resources to help the 56 cities comply, and the staff available to assess their submissions for compliance as post-acknowledgement plan amendments. These cities are smaller - many have a single staff person serving as the city planner - and will require assistance to update zoning codes to comply with HB 2001. POP 110 would also allow for assistance for communities under 10,000 that want to do this work. The goal of achieving more middle housing around the state will require a cooperative effort between the Department and these cities.

Finally, POP 110 would allow for assistance to 24 eligible cities for updates to their Housing Needs Analysis from which HB 2003-compliant Housing Production Strategies will be built, technical assistance to local governments, and $1 million in associated grants.
POP 110 staff also would help tie spatial application of the Housing Production Strategies into the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities rulemaking process initiating next month, another top priority for OAPA. Housing, climate change, and equity are OAPA’s highest legislative and policy priorities, and we have been very supportive of DLCD’s integrated approach. Adequate funding for DLCD is key to helping ensure the progress that has started on all of these fronts continues and can be carried forward on the local level.

OAPA is an independent, statewide, not-for-profit membership organization of more than 950 planners from across the state who work 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 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 to provide ongoing economic, environmental, and social benefits.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Aaron Ray, AICP, President
Board of Directors

Eunice Kim, AICP, Chair
Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee