



February 11th, 2025

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Re: Oppose HB 2950

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

The Homebuilding Association of Greater Portland (HBA) opposes HB 2950 in its current form. While we understand the intent to improve public involvement in land use planning, the bill, as written, would only exacerbate current challenges facing homebuilders in Oregon.

First, Oregon's Land Use Planning Goal 1 currently contributes to significant and often baseless public opposition to needed housing developments, including middle and affordable housing. While public input is valuable, the current application of Goal 1 often leads to unnecessary delays (sometimes years) to housing projects that can add significant costs on a per/unit basis. We urge the committee to balance public participation with safeguards against frivolous objections that can stall necessary development. If the Department updates Goal 1, it should include measures to prevent obstruction in the quasi-judicial application process to ensure the timely construction of critical housing.

Additionally, the advisory group created by this bill lacks representation from industries directly affected by public opposition, such as homebuilding, development, industrial development, and renewable energy projects. If the goal is to encourage effective public participation, an advisory group must reflect the voices who actually build the housing our state so desperately needs, not just the loudest few in the room. We recommend expanding the group to include representatives from these industries to ensure that any reforms are practical, fair, and actually make building housing easier.

Oregon's housing shortage requires proactive and realistic solutions. If we do not address public resistance to various types of housing, including affordable housing, we will continue to fall short of our housing goals. Any changes to Goal 1 must focus on reducing barriers to housing development, not creating further delays.

We look forward to collaborating on solutions that will help meet Oregon's housing needs.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Preston Korst".

Preston Korst
Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs
Home Building Association of Greater Portland