



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

March 4, 2021

Representative Julie Fahey, Chair
Representative Winsley Campos, Vice-Chair
Representative Lily Morgan, Vice-Chair
House Committee On Housing
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association in Support of House Bill 3155 with Concerns

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Campos and Morgan, and Members of the Committee:

This letter provides testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) in support of HB 3155 with some concerns. 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.

OAPA has reviewed HB 3155 and endorses most of this proposal while expressing concern over one aspect. As we understand it, the bill corrects a "glitch" in HB 2003 (2019 regular session), which leaves a gap in which cities of between 10,000 and 25,000 in population are not required to meet housing obligations in ORS 197.299(2) through (9) that must be met by other cities of similar size. That glitch must be corrected.

However, Section 4 of the bill deletes Metro's allocation of "housing capacity" in some instances for the Metro region. The words used, i.e., "allocate" and "housing capacity," appear to indicate a legislative intent that Metro undertake the allocation of fair shares of regional housing obligations. OAPA has concerns that the passage of this legislation would run counter to this intent and be interpreted as denying Metro any role in assuring the regional needs for housing are met. The Legislature, Metro's Charter, and its code all give this power to Metro. We suggest that Metro's role in housing remains unaffected if this legislation is passed

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Oregon Chapter President

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and request the Committee seek the same understanding and clarification in the bill.

One of OAPA's 2021 Legislative Priorities is: "Address the housing crisis," and having all available tools and authority in place is critical in order to do so. OAPA recommends the Committee address the clarification noted above and vote the bill out with a Do Pass recommendation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Aaron Ray".

Aaron Ray, AICP, President
Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Eunice Kim".

Eunice Kim, AICP, Chair
Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee