



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

February 6, 2023

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
Representative Maxine Dexter, Chair
Representative Mark Gamba, Vice-Chair
Representative Jeffrey Helfrich, Vice-Chair

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) in Support of HB 2889

Dear Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) is a nonprofit professional membership organization of over 800 planners and those who work with planning in formulating and implementing development and conservation policies at the state and local level. OAPA works to create sustainable and vibrant Oregon communities through professional development, advocacy for sound planning, providing resources to meet the challenges of growth and change, and embracing and promoting diversity, inclusion and equity.

There is a housing crisis in Oregon, and it is critical that efforts continue to increase housing availability, affordability, and choices for Oregonians across the state.

OAPA supports the proposed process and structure described in HB 2889 as necessary means to increase housing capacity and development through land use and zoning strategies and sees passage of the bill along these lines as a high priority.

OAPA is aware that amendments to this bill have been proposed and we will continue to be engaged as revisions to this bill go through the legislative process. However, we offer a few preliminary comments for consideration at this point:

- Rely on the recommendations found in the December 20022 Legislative Report: [Oregon Housing Needs Analysis Legislative Recommendations Report: Leading with Production](#) produced by the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development and the Oregon Housing and Community Services.
- Support the continuing local implementation of HB 2003 (2019), Oregon Housing Needs Analysis.
- Ending homelessness requires access to affordable and supportive housing options. Increased production of permanent affordable housing, preferably with supportive services, is the long-term solution to housing stability.

- Support opportunities to increase the supply and variety of housing is prevalent within the state's urban growth boundary areas and especially within the state's eight metropolitan areas.
- Address need to address increased funding and technical assistance to all communities to help meet their housing needs, including adequate water, sewer, and transportation infrastructure funding.
- Preserve and increase the supply of safe, stable and affordable housing across Oregon for low to moderate-income households, including rental and ownership opportunities.
- Promote housing stability and mitigating or minimizing the displacement of residents, with attention to historically and systematically marginalized communities.
- Promote housing in connected, complete communities – close to quality schools, jobs, services, food and household necessities, cultural centers, places of worship, recreation, and open space – with convenient access to transit and other transportation options.
- Assure accountability at all levels, local and state, as accountability is a substantial condition for success needed to facilitate the development of needed housing.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony supporting HB 2889.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aaron Ray, AICP".

Aaron Ray, AICP ([he/him/his](#)) <president@oregonapa.org>
President, Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association
Relevant Resources, Better Planners, Exceptional Communities