



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

March 29, 2021

Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
Representative Ken Helm, Vice-Chair
Representative David Brock Smith, Vice-Chair
House Committee On Energy and Environment
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association on HB 2520

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee:

OAPA recommends that HB 2520 be tabled for this legislative session. OAPA recommends focusing now on passing and implementing HB 2488-2, which would comprehensively address climate change, equity, and environmental justice.

Specifically, OAPA supports HB 2488-2 and strongly recommends that it be implemented before taking on a significant project like that called for in HB 2520. The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) only has the budget and staffing to complete one significant project like this in the next biennium, and HB 2488-2 should be prioritized as it would not only address climate change but would do so with a focus on equity and environmental justice. This is in line with [OAPA's 2021 Legislative Priorities](#) to: **Confront Climate Change, Promote Resiliency and Recovery, and Advance Racial Equity.**

After HB 2488 has been implemented, OAPA recommends that HB 2520 be passed, along with the funding necessary for DLCD to update Statewide Planning Goal 13, Energy Conservation, with respect to renewable energy. HB 2520 does address OAPA's Legislative Priorities around climate change and resiliency, and OAPA would be open to supporting an amended version of HB 2520 if sufficient funding were made available to begin this work soon and to ensure its successful completion.

If such an amendment is not feasible this legislative session, OAPA recommends that HB 2520 be tabled for now.

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

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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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on HB 2520.

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