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Oregon State Legislature

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

RE: Support for HB 2950 | Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 1 Update

Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2950, which initiates a process to update Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 1 “Citizen Involvement.”

For over 35 years, Central Oregon LandWatch has been working to ensure Central Oregon’s livable future—one where our region grows well and with intention by creating well-planned and well-built cities with Complete Communities, preserving farmland, and protecting wild, open spaces.

Oregon’s land use system plays a direct and formative role in shaping Oregon’s way of life and the lives of all Oregonians. That’s why Oregon’s Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 1 is so important and foundational to Oregon’s land use system. It calls for “the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process.” This is essential in ensuring that people and communities have a voice and the ability to participate in land use processes and decisions that affect them.

While Goal 1 has served Oregonians well for the past 50 years, now is the time for more equitable and modernized options for public engagement, participation, and feedback. With crucial conversations happening at the state and local levels regarding climate, transportation, economic development, housing, and environmental policies, now more than ever it is important to ensure that our communities have equitable, accountable public engagement processes.

We urge your support of HB 2950, as it will provide an important and timely update to Goal 1. Integrating new and effective technologies, tools, and strategies will support more robust, equitable public participation, increase public trust, and improve land use outcomes for all Oregon communities. Thank you for your service and consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Kristin Reidelberger

Cities & Towns Associate Program Manager



We defend and plan for Central Oregon's livable future