



American Planning Association

Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

February 3, 2026

To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

Re: HB 4108

Position: Support with -1 Amendment

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Andersen and members of the committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on **HB 4108** with the recent -1 amendment.

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.

The OAPA recognizes the value in reducing barriers and decreasing timelines for annexing residential properties as a tool to increase residential housing density, housing production, and reduce environmental impacts. OAPA supports excluding industrial properties for this criteria and the focus on residential land. OAPA was originally concerned about the overly prescriptive approach to indicating a process that limits hearings and other forms of participation rather than allowing these processes to align with the jurisdiction's existing adopted processes. **With the -1 amendment change from “shall” to “may,” we are able to support this bill.**

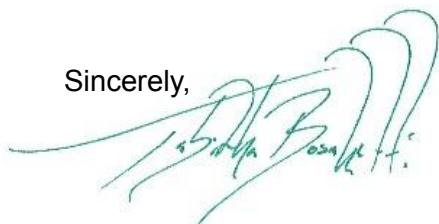
Annexations are typically a Type IV legislative process within many jurisdictions. In some jurisdictions, the decision for minor annexations may go to elected leaders without a full hearing already, but in others, a hearing may be an inherent part of this process. Having multiple tracks for review, with no clear outline based on urgency (such as

situations where someone needs to replace a failing septic system) or scale (small individual properties versus large tracts) can add to public confusion and mistrust. Public processes improve accountability and transparency in local decision-making, and provide opportunities to share local community knowledge to inform decision-making.

To the extent that it appears that the intent of the bill is to permit jurisdictions to annex non-contiguous lands in relatively unique situations where such lands are already served by municipal infrastructure, it would make sense to amend this bill to describe that permissive aspect separately from the contemplated review process.

In summary, OAPA supports reduced barriers to housing production and density within a city's urban growth boundary though annexation on non-continuous properties in limited situations where city services are already connected and provided. OAPA also supports clear and consistent review processes with opportunities for public engagement. With the proposed -1 amendment, HB 4081 can better achieve both outcomes. We look forward to engaging with any further amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tabitha Boschetti".

Tabitha Boschetti
Chair, Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee
Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association
www.oregonapa.org