

February 10, 2025

Brad Kilby, AICP
11362 SE Torra Vista Ct.
Happy Valley, OR 97086

RE: HB 2950 hearing

Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and members of the committee:

My name is Brad Kilby and I am writing to testify in support of HB 2950, which would modernize Statewide Planning Goal 1 through a comprehensive advisory committee process. I support this legislation as a planner as well as board member for the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association. I am very excited that your committee is taking up this very important issue this session.

As a planning professional for the past 27, I have firsthand experience with both understanding and implementing our state's land use goals in my work, and I strongly support the concept of amending Goal 1 for a number of reasons.

Senate Bill 100 was passed at a time when the Citizens of Oregon valued the rationale of managing urban growth. That was 54 years ago and it's important to note that Goal 1 was a statewide planning goal that has never had any updates or administrative rules applied. Over the past decade or more, the trust in SB 100 has been eroding. Many communities are working with Comprehensive Plans that are outdated or simply cobbled together from administration to administration.

If we want our statewide land use system to remain relevant, then our statewide rules and regulations need to reflect the values and priorities of the citizens. Over the last two years, your body has passed legislation related to housing that is compromising the public trust between the practitioners who implement your regulation and the policy makers.

An intentional modernization of this legislation will give policymakers and citizens alike with an opportunity to provide valuable context to ensure the legitimacy of our system. Many people were not born or located within the State of Oregon when SB 100 passed, and honestly, unless you're a land use planner or legislator, many of our citizens don't understand the importance of a statewide planning system.

By modernizing Goal 1, you accomplish 3 key tenants of good governance:

1. A modernized Goal 1 process and rules should allow the incorporation of local knowledge and expertise. What works on the west side of the Cascades, doesn't always work on the east side of the Cascades;
2. A Goal 1 with rules allows for a diversity of input that can lead to more innovative and practical solutions as it challenges conventional approaches and uncovers potential issues before they become major problems; and

3. A sound Goal 1 modernization effort will allow the facilitation of an open dialogue that often times mediates competing interests and fosters compromise.

Citizen participation is fundamental to a democratic government. Formalizing public input in the land use planning process, ultimately contributes to a more democratic, informed, and harmonious approach to statewide planning.

HB 2950 will provide the direction and the resources necessary for DLCD and LCDC to modernize Goal 1, which has remained unchanged since it was first adopted 50 years ago.

I urge your careful consideration and support for HB 2950!

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Kilby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Brad" on the top line and "Kilby" slightly lower and to the right.

Brad Kilby