

February 11, 2025

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

My name is Andrea G. Riner and I am writing in support of HB 2950 to modernize Oregon's Statewide Planning Goal 1: Citizen Involvement. As an Assistant Planner for the City of Lincoln City, I am very pleased that your committee is addressing this out-of-date and out-of-touch component of our valuable Statewide Planning program.

As a planning professional working in Oregon for the past three decades, I have firsthand experience with both understanding and implementing our state's land use goals, with a specific emphasis on public involvement. I strongly support the concept of amending Goal 1 to address the following issues:

- Reliance on using regular mail is a high cost, low benefit practice. Fifty years ago, a postage stamp was about \$ 0.10. That rate has more than quadrupled, using more and more of our planning budgets.
- Limiting notification to property owners is not an inclusive outreach method, especially in communities like ours with high percentages of second home owners and short-term vacation rentals. Community members who rent, or are employed within the city but commute from other communities are habitually underinformed.
- Print media in small communities is almost disappearing. Costly classified ads are seen by fewer and fewer people every year.

Goal 1 has remained unchanged since it was first adopted 50 years ago. Since that time, I and my colleagues throughout the state have sought better, more effective ways to include people in the decisions that will impact them. Communication technology has undergone a significant transformation, expanding our outreach techniques, and providing us with even more data about the diverse needs of our community members. As we have worked hard to remove barriers to public participation it is long overdue for our State's public engagement goal to honor and incorporate these advancements.

For these reasons, I urge your support for HB 2950!

Thank you,

Andrea G. Riner

