

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

My name is Irene Kim 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 Partner at a Portland-based urban planning consulting firm, Cascadia Partners, and I am excited that your committee is taking up this very important issue this session.

As a planning professional and public engagement specialist for the past 12 years, 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.

Civic involvement is one of the most powerful ways for everyday Oregonians and Americans, documented and undocumented citizens alike, to advocate for themselves and their community about important policy decisions that can impact their everyday lives. As a second-generation Korean immigrant with limited English-speaking parents and family members, and as a public engagement consultant who works firsthand with many different communities across our state on land use policies and development, ability, availability, and access to public involvement opportunities do not look the same for all Oregonians and are certainly not equal for all Oregonians. Many planners of color, engagement practitioners, community organizations, and other marginalized groups and advocates have done outstanding work in the State in engaging underrepresented communities beyond the status quo despite the outdated language and requirements in Goal 1. It's well past time for Goal 1 to hold public agencies accountable to a higher and more equitable standard in public engagement that is truly representative of Oregon's diversity.

HB 2950 will give 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. In that time, participation technology has evolved, outreach techniques have changed, inclusivity practices have improved, and barriers to public participation have been studied and identified by land use experts across the state — it is long overdue for our public engagement goal to reflect these advancements.

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

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Irene Kim".

Irene Kim