



American Planning Association  
**Oregon Chapter**

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*Making Great Communities Happen*

February 27, 2017

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair  
900 Court Street NE Rm 347  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association in Support of SB 557**

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) is an independent, statewide, not-for-profit educational organization with 850 members that provides leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and citizen empowerment, and providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change.

OAPA urges the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to pass SB 557 out to consideration by the full Senate.

As you have publically stated, and we agree, we simply all have to take climate change more seriously.

The science and proof on the ground regarding climate change associated with global warming is clear. The calendar year 2016 was again the warmest year yet on record, continuing a disastrous trend. At great risk are industries at the **bedrock of Oregon's economy** – farming, forestry, fisheries and tourism. No less than our quality of life is at stake. Oregonians across the state are already feeling the impacts of this warming through wildfires, drought, and species loss. More severe storms, greater flooding, damage to infrastructure and other costly impacts are clearly documented in Oregon's Global Warming Assessment (2016). Climate scientists predict many more severe consequences if climate change continues unabated. From the Governor's Task Force on Global Warming in 2007 to the Oregon Sustainable Transportation Initiative (OSTI) and associated Sustainable Transportation Strategy, and most recently the summary report published by Lewis and Clark Law School *Countdown to 2050*, the path and steps are clear. One critical step would be accomplished in passing this bill - moving off greenhouse gas producing industries and fuels, and more toward renewable industries with this Cap and Invest policy.

OAPA also urges the Committee to consider the financial commitment that will be needed to implement this work at the local level. Much of the work from SB 557 will be carried out by local government land use and transportation planners to ensure their local planning document satisfy new rules. Please remember to consider this in current and future funding packages to support this implementation. Both cities and counties will need the State's financial support to get this important work done.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Damian Syrnyk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Damian Syrnyk, AICP, Chair  
Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee  
Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association