



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

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Making Great Communities Happen

Monday, March 20, 2017

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association testimony to the House Committee on Human Services and Housing **in support of** HB 2912.

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Committee Members,

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.

Our organization has reviewed HB 2912 and supports the bill as drafted. **We respectfully ask that the Committee vote the bill out of committee with a Do Pass recommendation.**

Many communities across the state are experiencing a severe shortage of affordable housing. To increase affordable housing, the state and local government must be creative and use all the policy and funding options that are at our disposal. HB 2912 puts another tool in the affordable housing tool belt by creating an Affordable Housing Land Acquisition Revolving Loan Fund Program to loan money to eligible organizations to purchase land for affordable housing. This is a commonsense solution to help increase the amount of affordable housing in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeannine Rustad', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeannine Rustad, JD, President

Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association