

A UNITED VOICE FOR OREGON'S LAND USE PROGRAM

February 2nd, 2026

Governor Tina Kotek
Governor of the State of Oregon
900 Court Street, Suite 254
Salem, Oregon 97301-4047

Dear Governor Kotek and Members of the Oregon Legislature,

We, the 53 undersigned organizations, write to express our strong support for Oregon's visionary land use planning program and our deep concern about escalating threats to its integrity emerging from Salem.

For more than 50 years, Oregon's land use planning program has safeguarded the working lands and natural resources that define our state, creating the world-renowned quality of life that a majority of Oregonians cherish.¹ Few public policy frameworks have served our state so well, for so long, and with such broad benefits.

Oregon's land use planning program:

- **Requires cities to plan for and deliver ample housing for all income levels.** Goal 10: Housing remains a foundational commitment to providing equitable housing for all, and we appreciate the Governor's recent leadership in ensuring this promise is upheld. Oregon's land use laws also provide expedited timelines that minimize costs and delays associated with environmental review of housing in other states.
- **Safeguards key pillars of Oregon's economy and prosperity: rural farms and forests.** Oregon's farmlands support an agricultural economy that contributes 13% of the state's gross product and produces more than \$6.8 billion in agricultural commodities annually.² Our forestlands make Oregon the largest softwood lumber producer in the U.S.³
- **Protects communities from wildfire and promotes public health benefits.** By limiting sprawl in the wildland-urban interface, the program mitigates the risk and cost of catastrophic wildfire to Oregon communities. Transportation remains Oregon's greatest source of climate pollution;⁴ the program decreases vehicle miles traveled to reduce our state's carbon footprint and produce public health co-benefits.^{5,6}
- **Preserves essential wildlife habitat and open space.** By focusing growth and development within urban areas and protecting most rural lands for farming, forestry, open space, and wildlife habitat, the program preserves the ecological function of our state's diverse landscapes.

More than any single statistic, our unique land use planning program makes Oregon, Oregon. While other Western states have been marred by unchecked or unplanned development, Oregon's program provides a balance that has led to livable cities and towns, constrained rural sprawl, and limited climate pollution—all while preserving the farms, forests, and open spaces that sustain our economies, ecosystems, and communities.

Oregon's land use planning program is durable and flexible enough to address some of the greatest challenges of our time: from housing to climate change to wildfire safety. We recognize that the program must occasionally adapt—and be better enforced—to meet today's needs. But the bones of the program remain strong, effective, and essential—and continue to set Oregon apart.

We urge you to uphold Oregon's visionary land use planning program. Our economy, our natural resources, and the livability of our communities depend on its continued success.

Sincerely,



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350Deschutes
Amy Thomas, Executive Director



350PDX
Cherice Bock, Climate Policy Director



Alliance for Democracy, Oregon
David Delk, President



American Farmland Trust
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Bend Bikes
Andy Neary, Program Manager



Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation
Rob Zako, Executive Director



Bird Alliance of Oregon
Joe Liebezeit, Statewide Conservation Director



Braided River Campaign
Marnie Glickman, Executive Director



Central Oregon Bitterbrush Broads and Bros
Mathieu Federspiel, Executive Committee Member



Central Oregon LandWatch
Rory Isbell, Rural Lands Program Director & Staff Attorney



Climate Reality Project Portland Chapter
Helena Birecki, Interim Chair



Columbia Riverkeeper
Kelly Campbell, Policy Director



Defenders of Wildlife
Colin Reynolds, Senior Advisor, Northwest Program



Deschutes Youth Climate Coalition
Amelia DuBose, Member



Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument
Daniel Collay, Executive Director



Friends of Douglas County
Shelley Wetherell, President



Friends of Marion County
Roger Kaye, President

**Friends of Polk County**

Sarah Deumling, Chair

**Friends of the Columbia Gorge**

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**Friends of the Metolius**

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**Friends of the Owyhee**

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**Greater Hells Canyon Council**

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**High Desert Food Farm Alliance**

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**Oregon Land and Water Alliance**

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**Onward Oregon**

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**Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network**

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**Oregon Coast Alliance**

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**Oregon Council Trout Unlimited**

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**Oregon Just Transition Alliance**

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**Oregon Shores**

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**Oregon Trails Coalition**

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**Protect Animal Migration**

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**Save Helvetia**

Faun Hosey, President

**Save Scholls**

Andrea D'Amico, Secretary

**Sierra Club Oregon Chapter**

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**Sunrise Corvallis**

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**The Environmental Center**

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**The Intertwine Alliance**

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**Thrive Hood River**

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**Tualatin Riverkeepers**

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**Verde**

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**WaterWatch of Oregon**

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**Willamette River Preservation Trust**

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**Willamette Riverkeeper**

Lindsey Hutchinson, Staff Attorney

**Worthy Garden Club**

Lisa Sanco, Executive Director

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