

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,



1000 Friends of Oregon
Sam Diaz, Executive Director



350Deschutes
Amy Thomas, Executive Director



350PDX
Cherice Bock, Climate Policy Director



Alliance for Democracy, Oregon
David Delk, President



American Farmland Trust
Addie Candib, Pacific Northwest Regional Director



Bend Bikes
Andy Neary, Program Manager



Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation
Rob Zako, Executive Director



Bird Alliance of Oregon
Joe Liebezeit, Statewide Conservation Director



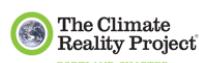
Braided River Campaign
Marnie Glickman, Executive Director



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
Madison Kenney, Advocacy & Policy Coordinator



Friends of the Metolius
Douglas Hancock, President



Friends of the Owyhee
Timothy Davis, Executive Director



Greater Hells Canyon Council
Jamie Dawson, Conservation Director



High Desert Food Farm Alliance
James Faughnan, Small Farms Coordinator



Humane Voters Oregon
Brian Posewitz, Director



League of Women Voters of Oregon
Barbara Klein, First Vice President



Newberg Sustainable Solutions Group
Shauna McKain-Storey, Core Member



Next Up Action Fund
Jasia Mosley, Advocacy Manager



Oregon Land and Water Alliance
Eva Eagle, First Vice President



Onward Oregon
Lenny Dee, President



Oregon Agricultural Trust
Nellie McAdams, Executive Director



Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Ian Isaacson, Board Co-Chair



Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network
Megan Kemple, Executive Director



Oregon Coast Alliance
Cameron La Follette, Executive Director



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited
Mark Rogers, Chair



Oregon Just Transition Alliance
Jamie Pang, Deputy Director of Policy and Programs



Oregon Shores
Mandy Watson, Coastal Conservation Manager



Oregon Trails Coalition
Stephanie Noll, Director



Protect Animal Migration
Suzanne Linford, Executive Director



Save Helvetia
Faun Hosey, President



Save Scholls
Andrea D'Amico, Secretary



Sierra Club Oregon Chapter
Maleek McKenzie, Energy Justice Organizer



Sunrise Corvallis
Sam Johnson, Hub Leader



The Environmental Center
Neil Baunsgard, Climate and Transportation Policy Manager



The Intertwine Alliance
Tara Wilkinson, Director



Think Wild
Sally Compton, Executive Director



Thrive Hood River
Chris Robuck, Board Co-President



Tualatin Riverkeepers
Kelsey Shaw Nakama, Policy & Advocacy Director



Verde
Indi Namkoong, Transportation Justice Coordinator



WaterWatch of Oregon
Kimberley Priestly, Senior Policy Analyst



Willamette River Preservation Trust
Travis Williams, President



Willamette Riverkeeper
Lindsey Hutchinson, Staff Attorney



Worthy Garden Club
Lisa Sanco, Executive Director