

## A UNITED VOICE FOR OREGON'S LAND USE PROGRAM

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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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> Our forestlands make Oregon the largest softwood lumber producer in the U.S.<sup>3</sup>
- **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;<sup>4</sup> the program decreases vehicle miles traveled to reduce our state's carbon footprint and produce public health co-benefits.<sup>5, 6</sup>
- **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



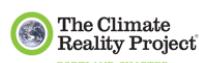
**Braided River Campaign**  
Marnie Glickman, Executive Director



**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