



American Planning Association
Washington Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

February 27, 2020

The Honorable Timm Ormsby
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Washington State Legislature
416 Sid Snyder Ave SW
Olympia, WA 98501

Subject: Requested amendment to the House Supplemental Operating Budget:

Dear Representative Ormsby:

The **Washington State Chapter of the American Planning Association** ([APA Washington](#)) is a 1,200-member association of public and private sector professional planners, planning commissioners and elected officials, among others. We work every day to implement the state's growth management and planning framework and hope that our input can help improve it.

We believe that continuous strengthening, clarification, and improvement of the state's growth management and planning framework – helpfully defined in the [Road Map report](#) (Vol 1, page 8) as the Growth Management Act, State Environmental Policy Act, Shoreline Management Act, and 15 other chapters of state law – is essential to meet the challenges facing communities across Washington.

We urge the House Appropriations Committee to **amend PSHB 2325 to align with the following provision in the Senate's proposed Supplemental Operating Budget:**

\$350,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 is provided solely for the department to convene a workgroup to review and make recommendations for legislation to update the growth management act in light of the “Road Map to Washington's Future” report produced by the Ruckelshaus Center. The task force must involve stakeholders from diverse perspectives in the process, including but not limited to representatives of counties, cities, the forestry and agricultural industries, the environmental community, Native American tribes, and state agencies. The work group must report on its activities and recommendations by December 1, 2020.

The requested budget amendment would enable continued collaboration to build on the information and insights, as well as key reforms and actions, in the [Road Map to Washington's Future](#) report to the Legislature. This additional work would take the next step of developing concrete legislative proposals for the 2021 legislative session.

Thank you for your consideration and your efforts to address this priority issue. We would be happy to respond to questions you have on this request.

Sincerely,

Nancy Eklund, AICP

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