



February 22, 2020

Representative Davina Duerr, Vice Chair, Local Government Committee,

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. APA Washington respectfully submits comments **in support of Substitute House Bill 2427**:

As originally constructed, **HB 2427** would have:

- Added a climate change goal to guide the development and adoption of comprehensive plans and development regulations under the Growth Management Act (GMA); and
- Required the consideration of the climate change planning goal by regional transportation planning organizations and in countywide planning policies under the GMA.

The substitute rewrites the goal, generally making it more clear but less prescriptive, and limits the applicability of the goal to Clark, King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. While **we are disappointed that the substitute removes 25 of the 29 counties** that fully plan under the GMA from responsibility to consider even this modest goal, it would still cover 59% of the state's population and 68% of the state's growth in the 2010's.

When our members were surveyed about priorities for this year's [APA-WA 2020 Legislative Priorities](#), urgent action on climate change was the second highest priority (housing affordability secured the top spot for the second year in a row). Further consideration of climate change in the comprehensive planning process would serve the following **specific priorities of our organization**:

- Update, clarify, and strengthen the state's statutory greenhouse gas emission reduction benchmarks and establish implementation mechanisms, such as pricing carbon pollution;
- Pursue climate action plans, regulatory measures, incentives, technical standards and specifications, and mitigation and adaption measures in comprehensive plans; and
- Incorporate climate impacts, indicators, and benchmarks in comprehensive plans, environmental impact analysis, and development reviews.

The [American Planning Association](#) (our national organization) also [urges consideration of climate change into planning](#):

- State and local governments should pursue climate action plans, regulatory measures, incentives, technical standards and specifications, integration of climate change mitigation and adaption measures into comprehensive, neighborhood and regional plans, and other plans and programs in a regionally and/or locally appropriate fashion.

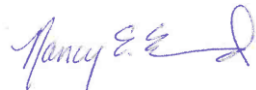
Finally, the [Road Map to Washington's Future](#) heard a common theme around the state of concern about climate change, and found broad support for to plan for it. The report identifies an opportunity to improve our state's planning framework through transformational change, and

further identified a key reform of that reflected an area of common interest throughout the state that would have positive ripple effects:

- Develop comprehensive and integrated strategies, policies, implementation plans, and funding for climate adaptation and mitigation on the local, regional, and state level. (Transformational Change Action 3.1, page 92 of [Volume 1](#))
- Add a Planning Goal to the GMA - Resilience to climate change and natural disasters (Key Reform, page 100 of [Volume 1](#))

Thank you for your consideration and your efforts to address this priority issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Eklund". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nancy Eklund, AICP
President, Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association