



American Planning Association  
**Washington Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

January 21, 2025

The Honorable Strom Peterson  
House Housing Committee  
Washington State House of Representatives  
Olympia, WA

The Honorable Jessica Bateman  
Senate Housing Committee  
Washington State Senate  
Olympia, WA

Subject: HB 1235 and SB 5148

Dear Chair Peterson, and Chair Bateman,

I am writing on behalf of the American Planning Association, Washington Chapter (APAWA) to **provide comments on bill number HB 1235 and its Senate companion legislation SB 5148**. Our 1500+ members are planning professionals who advise elected and appointed officials on land use, transportation, economic development and environmental policy, enforce development regulations, administer the permit process, and provide public information to and engagement with our constituents regarding growth and change to cities, towns, counties, non-profit organizations and more.

APAWA supports the compliance by local governments with the Growth Management Act. HB 1235/SB 5148 provide a process to verify compliance by giving the Dept. of Commerce a review and certification role in local governments' comprehensive plan housing elements.

One initial concern we have with the language of HB 1235/SB 5148 is the additional work generated for local governments listed in Sec. 1 (3) beginning page 2, line 14. While the work products required by this bill might seem modest, they would come at a time when multiple bills passed by the legislature in recent years have prompted the need for code revisions and additional bodies of work in comprehensive plans. Additionally, SB 5290 (2023) took effect January 1, 2025, requiring local governments to prioritize resources on timely permit review. Any additional requirements would further strain staff resources.

Local governments are in various stages of meeting their required planning updates, and many planning departments are struggling to complete this work. The State has provided some additional planning support, which is sincerely appreciated. With the current projected State budget shortfall, we fear that there won't be sufficient State fiscal support of us to meet our current planning requirements—let alone any new ones, like those required by HB 1235/SB 5148.

2150 N. 107th Street, Suite 205  
Seattle, WA 98133-9009  
phone: 206-682-7436  
email: [office@washington-apa.org](mailto:office@washington-apa.org)  
web: [www.washington-apa.org](http://www.washington-apa.org)

---

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor this bill and look for opportunities to offer constructive input.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chad Eiken". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chad Eiken, President  
American Planning Association, Washington Chapter  
2150 N 107<sup>th</sup> St Ste 205  
Seattle, WA 98133-9009

---