



American Planning Association
Washington Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

January 19, 2021

Senator Carlyle, Chair, Senate Committee on Environment, Energy, and Technology,
and members of the committee,

The Washington State Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Washington) respectfully submits comments **in support of Senate Bill 5626**, which would address climate resilience in water system planning.

Considering climate realities when managing public water systems is not only wise, but more importantly, a critical need, based on the increasing extreme weather events in Washington State. The bill's authorization regarding financial assistance eligibility for applicable work will provide tools and resources to jurisdictions and water systems to create and implement climate resiliency appropriate for their unique environments and climates.

APA Washington furthermore recommends that public water systems, along with other special purpose districts, be brought into the same coordinated growth management planning framework as other local jurisdictions. It has been a [long-standing position](#) of APA Washington that these special districts should be brought under the planning requirements of GMA. We continue to believe this should be accomplished by amending RCW 36.70A.040 and .280.

[APA Washington](#) is a 1,400-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 appreciate the opportunity to provide information that will help improve it for all Washingtonians. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Yorik Stevens-Wajda'.

Yorik Stevens-Wajda, AICP
President, Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association