



January 20, 2022

The Honorable Gerry Pollet, Chair
Local Government Committee
Washington State House of Representatives
Olympia, WA

The Honorable Patty Kuderer, Chair
Housing and Local Government Committee
Washington State Senate
Olympia, WA

Subject: HB 1782 and SB 5670 regarding GMA amendments for Middle Housing

Dear Chair Pollet and Chair Kuderer:

I write on behalf of the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association to express our support for HB 1782 and its Senate companion legislation SB 5670. Our organization represents 1500 members across the state of Washington who work for cities, counties, regional, state, and tribal governments, non-profit and private sector clients. Our 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 citizens regarding growth and change.

APA Washington supported HB 1220, adopted in the 2021 session, and codified in the Growth Management Act at RCW 36.70A.020(7). That section directs local government comprehensive plans are to provide for “duplex, triplex, and townhouse” forms of housing and to identify “local policies and regulations that result in racially disparate impacts, displacement, and exclusion in housing.” HB 1782 would implement this GMA direction by requiring reforms to city development codes, standards, and processes to facilitate middle housing. The Legislatures of Oregon and California have recently amended their land use laws to add middle housing as an important part of broader strategies to address the housing crisis in their states. We believe Washington’s Legislature can and should follow a similar path to address the housing crisis in our state.

Our members have identified a number of recommended clarifications and improvements to the bill which we will share in a subsequent letter. We stand ready to work with you and the many interested stakeholder groups in refining this important legislation. Thank you for your leadership in maintaining and improving the Growth Management Act to address our state’s ongoing housing crisis.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yorik Stevens-Wajda', is written in a cursive style.

Yorik Stevens-Wajda, President
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