



American Planning Association
Washington Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

January 21, 2022

The Honorable Representative Fitzgibbon, Chair, House Environment and Energy Committee, and members of the committee,

APA Washington respectfully submits comments in **support of House Bill HB 1753**, which requires that state agencies that administer funds from three accounts created pursuant to the Climate Commitment Act (the Climate Investment Account, the Climate Commitment Account, and the Natural Climate Solutions Account) offer consultation to federally recognized tribes whose tribal resources may be affected by the award of funds from the accounts.

The bill requires applicants for funding from these accounts to engage in a preapplication process with all federally recognized tribes within the project area. It prohibits an agency from releasing funding or making permitting decisions that advance the proposed project during the pendency of the preapplication process, except where required by law. Further, it requires the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, in coordination with the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, to develop a state agency tribal consultation process regarding the preapplication process.

We support this bill as it would add an important step to the Climate Commitment Act that Governor Jay Inslee vetoed during last year's session. The effect of this new bill would move the task of developing a complex consultation framework and process from each individual agency to the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs in coordination with DAHP. We see this as an appropriate change that should result in more effective consultations. This bill addresses the Washington chapter's **2022 Legislative Priorities** and the American Planning Association's **Planning for Equity Policy Guide (2019)** by advancing equitable and participatory climate change mitigation.

The Washington State Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Washington) is a 1,400-member association of public and private sector professional planners, planning commissioners and elected officials, who serve city, county, regional, state, and tribal governments, as well as private sector clients in our state. Our members work every day to implement the state's growth management and planning framework and appreciate the opportunity to provide you with recommendations that will improve the practice of planning and the quality of life for all Washingtonians.

We would be happy to provide additional information or answer any questions you may have at this point. 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