



February 21, 2022

Senator Kuderer, Chair, Senate Housing and Local Government Committee, and members of the committee,

The Washington State Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Washington) respectfully submits comments **in support of House Bill 1717**, which amends the Growth management Act concerning tribal participation. In brief, the bill requires that local government collaborate and coordinate with federally recognized tribes for participation in the planning process under the Growth Management Act; that tribes shall be invited to collaborate with cities in the preparation of container port elements for lands located adjacent to tribal reservations; makes provisions for coordinating planning for urban growth by tribes and local governments. Further, the bill requires that the Department of Commerce shall administer a process of agreement seeking and mediation between tribes and local governments; provides that any tribe that so requests shall be provided with a copy of any city or county notice of GMA actions that is submitted to the Department of Commerce.

HB 1717 is an updated and clearer version of ESHB 1241 which also includes language related to tribal inclusion as it relates to the Growth Management Act. While HB 1241 also addresses similar matters, the language is not as clear and addressed other unrelated topics. As such, we are in support of HB 1717 over ESHB 1241 simply because it provides clear and consistent language as it relates directly to tribal inclusion and participation in planning under the Growth Management Act.

More specifically we are in favor of HB 1717 as it is reflective of the [APA's values](#) of inclusion, diversity, participatory planning, and particular attention to including populations (and nations) that have been historically excluded from the process.

- Tribal inclusion in our state's planning process is critical for collaboration and shared vision of our state's growth, resources and land planning.
- Tribal inclusion is critical to discuss many of the areas considered in the Growth Management Act, such as critical habitat areas, recreational areas and archeological resources.
- To meet the State's goals for climate reduction support, brainstorming, and collaboration with the tribes is recommended.
- As many of the ports waters intersect, combine and align with tribal lands and critical habitat areas careful and collaborative planning of the ports in particular with tribes is important to develop policies to encourage commerce and maintain clean, healthy and regenerative water ways.

[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.

We would be happy to provide additional information or answer any questions you may have at this point, or further in the trajectory of this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Yorik Stevens-Wajda".

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