



American Planning Association  
**Washington Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*

March 4, 2022

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

The Washington State Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Washington) respectfully submits these comments in support of House Bill 1769, which amends Chapters 35 and 35A RCW. The effect of passage of HB 1769 would be to sunset Community Municipal Corporations (CMC).

The Legislature created the authority for CMCs in 1967 as a tool to facilitate annexation to or consolidation of developed areas with adjacent towns and cities. The CMC tool enabled the annexation or consolidation of adjacent areas into the cities of Mercer Island, Bellevue, and Kirkland. However, CMCs have long outlived their original purpose and now serve only to enshrine inequitable land use processes and perpetuate unfair outcomes. The time has come to sunset the CMC statute by passing HB 1769.

The 1967 legislation gave authority to CMCs to “disapprove” the land use decisions of a city council that would apply everywhere else in the city. On its face, this is unfair and exclusionary governance. It not only creates two classes of citizens within a city, but raises the troubling prospect that CMCs could argue that their veto authority insulates them from having to meet state, regional, or city requirements to accommodate, for example, housing for all segments of the community.

APA Washington stands for the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion in public policy and land use planning. For these reasons, we urge the Governor sign HB 1769 into law.

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