



January 17, 2023

The Honorable Davina Duerr, Chair
Local Government Committee
Washington State House of Representatives
Olympia, WA

The Honorable Liz Lovelett, Chair
Local Government, Land Use & Tribal
Affairs Committee
Washington State Senate
Olympia, WA

Dear Chair Duerr and Chair Lovelett,

I am writing on behalf of the American Planning Association, Washington Chapter ([APA-WA](#)) to express our **support for HB 1181 and companion SB 5203**. The 1,500 members of our chapter are planning professionals who advise elected and appointed officials on land use, housing, transportation, economic development, and environmental policy, enforce development regulations, administer the permit process, and inform and engage with the communities we work with.

We provided supportive comments on earlier versions of this bill during the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions, and we applaud the legislature's many actions to address climate change over the last two years, including the implementation of climate change planning coordination through the Department of Commerce.

HB 1181 and SB 5203 advance APA-WA's top legislative priority: urgent action on climate resilience and sustainability. The bills also align with American Planning Association [policy guidance](#) calling for incorporating climate considerations into the planning framework. We appreciate the legislature's work on this vital issue, in particular:

- protection from SEPA appeals in Sec. 3 (9)(g)
- providing counties and cities with a 2024 comprehensive plan periodic update deadline an extension for the climate change and resiliency element and for the natural hazard mitigation plan
- planning and technical support for local governments under Sec. 5 and Sec. 8
- inclusion of Sec. 13, which specifies that the obligation of local governments is contingent on provision of state funding to local governments to comply with these requirements.

APAWA offers one suggestion for clarification: in order to make legislative requirements of Sec. 3(1) clear, APAWA suggests adding a definition for the term "wildland-urban interface area", as used in this subsection.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

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