



Oregon

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NEWS RELEASE

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Oregon Leaders Celebrate 50th Anniversary of Oregon's Land Use Planning Program

Governor Kotek declares May 24, 2023 Oregon Land Use Planning Day

SALEM - Today, Oregon elected and appointed leaders, current and former staff, community partners and practitioners commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Oregon Land Use Planning Program. Senate Bill 100 was signed by Governor Tom McCall 50 years ago on May 29, 1973. The anniversary event was a celebration of the program's achievements and a reflection on the profound impact land use planning has had for Oregon's landscape and identity. Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) Director Brenda Ortigoza Bateman welcomed Governor Tina Kotek for opening remarks. Governor Kotek stressed the importance of lifting marginalized and underrepresented voices in land use planning, "[land use] has a direct impact on access to housing and meaningful work, health, families, transportation opportunities, community, and overall quality of life," she told the crowd.

Director Bateman shared a solemn land acknowledgment, recognizing that national, state, and local policies have resulted in the separation and exclusion of entire communities from the land they love. "We can do better," she committed to the crowd. Aaron Ray, Chair of Oregon's Chapter of the American Planning Association, shared comments from Kat Brigham, Chair of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Board of Trustees and Chair of the Legislative Committee on Indian Services, "Senate Bill 100 was transformative in how the people of Oregon came together to be thoughtful of how we steward this land," he read. "From protecting wetlands and farmland, to improving efficiencies in housing and infrastructure."

Rob Hallyburton, a long-time former employee of the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), emceed the event. Representative David Gomberg, briefly taking a break from legislative hearings, joined the gathering on the Capitol Mall, sharing his personal connection to the agency for whom he interned when it was newly formed in 1976.

Anyeley Hallová, Chair of the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC), encouraged participants to embrace the bright future and evolution of Oregon while striving for more equitable land use planning outcomes. "Embracing both the lived experience of individuals and the ancestral knowledge of Tribal and First Nations reveals stories and knowledge and teach us how we can learn to care for our communal and environmental well-being in partnership with the land." Hallová also stressed the dynamic nature of the land use planning system, "it evolves and adapts," she said, "It grows and changes, reflecting the shifting needs

and aspirations of our communities. This inherent tension within the system is where we find the opportunity for real progress.”

Former state representative Nancy Fadeley served as the chair of the legislative committee that passed Senate Bill 100 out of the House and carried the bill to the floor of the Oregon Senate in 1973. Former representative Fahey admired a framed version of the original Senate Bill 100 as she was present for the signing 50 years ago. Greg Macpherson, son of Senator Hector Macpherson who sponsored SB 100, served as Chair of LCDC. Mr. Macpherson highlighted the instrumental role his father played in the architecture and success of the nationally-acclaimed land use planning program. DLCD Poet Laureate, Aimeé Okotie-Oyekan, addressed an intent audience with her powerful poem, "The Plan", relating personal experiences as a woman of color to current and historic injustices surround regulation of land. Recognizing the importance of Oregon's system of comprehensive planning, Geoff Huntington, Governor Kotek's Senior Natural Resources Advisor read a proclamation by the Governor declaring May 24, 2023 Oregon Land Use Planning Day.

While this important celebration was a reminder that Oregon remains at the forefront of progressive land use policies such as promoting vibrant cities, encouraging equitable and climate friendly communities, and requiring that community members have a voice in planning decisions, many of the remarks spoke to needing to continue to evolve the program for more equitable and sustainable outcomes. With historic investments in housing planning recently passed by the Oregon Legislature and signed by Governor Kotek in March, Chair Hallová challenged those gathered, “to confront the status-quo and challenges head-on...to embrace the necessary changes.”

Robert Liberty, Founder and Director of the Urban Sustainability Accelerator and Institute for Sustainable Solutions at Portland State University, quipped to the emcee during the intermission, “What would they think in another state if they held a birthday party for *a law?*”

As the event neared its conclusion, Director Bateman encouraged the still packed house to continue to participate in the evolution of the dynamic program, “We have a 50th Anniversary survey online that has captured the thoughts of hundreds of Oregonians. We want to keep learning from you, and to keep growing. Share your thoughts and help us shape the next fifty years.”

Bateman closed the event by saying, “Let us begin, again!”

Oregonians may find the survey online [here](#).

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Oregon's statewide land use planning program — originated in 1973 under Senate Bill 100 — protects farm and forest lands, conserves natural resources, promotes livable communities, facilitates orderly and efficient development, helps coordination among local governments, and enables community engagement.

The program affords all Oregonians predictability and sustainability to the development process

by allocating land for jobs and housing, as well as protection for farm and forest uses. The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) administers the program. A seven-member volunteer citizen board known as the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) guides DLCD.

Under the program, all cities and counties have adopted comprehensive plans that meet state standards. The standards are based on 19 statewide planning goals that address land use, economic development, housing, transportation, and conservation of coastal and other natural resources. Technical assistance in the form of grants to local jurisdictions is a key element of the program in partnership with communities across the state.