



Date: March 9, 2007

From: Washington Chapter, American Planning Association (APA)

To: The Honorable Geoff Simpson, Chair  
Committee on Local Government  
Washington State House of Representatives

Re: **SHB 1727 – Planning to ensure sufficient land and densities available to accommodate growth.**

**Position: APA SUPPORTS SUBSTITUTE HB 1727**

The provision of sufficient housing supply to accommodate expected demand is an important component of housing affordability, and a major goal of the growth management act. Likewise, providing for a variety of housing types and densities helps promote a vital, diverse, and healthy community in which residents at many points in their lifecycles can live comfortably within the same community.

APA has concerns that the new language in section 1 would result in significant additional work and costs for jurisdictions not subject to the existing buildable lands evaluation requirement. If this is the case, the Chapter would expect that technical assistance and/or direct funding support would be provided by the State to localities. In any event, the benefits to local planning of having this information will in most cases outweigh the costs of data collection and analysis.

APA supports the two innovative techniques added in section 2 of the bill. Mixed-use development generally provides for more vibrant and walkable neighborhoods, principally by having complementary and compatible uses located close to each other. Accessory dwelling units provide another important housing choice, and should be encouraged.

APA also supports section 3 of the bill. In the Chapter's opinion, there is nothing stopping this type of interlocal agreement and inter-jurisdictional cooperation from happening under current State law. However, we see no harm in directly providing for this type of collaboration.

Contacts: Esther Larsen, Legislative Committee Co-Chair  
509-477-5709, [elarsen@spokanecounty.org](mailto:elarsen@spokanecounty.org)  
Josh Peters, Legislative Committee Co-Chair  
360-385-9167, [jpeters@co.jefferson.wa.us](mailto:jpeters@co.jefferson.wa.us)  
Steve Butler, President  
206-973-4830, [sbutler@ci.seatac.wa.us](mailto:sbutler@ci.seatac.wa.us)

Tel: (206) 682-7436  
Fax: (206) 626-0392  
[office@washington-apa.org](mailto:office@washington-apa.org)

Lloyd Building, Suite 610  
603 Stewart Street  
Seattle, WA 98101-1275