

Submitter: Andrew Damitio

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB2889

Oregon is in the midst of a severe housing crisis caused in large part by local governments refusing to approve new housing construction. State intervention in ensuring housing production is increased is desperately needed. The state's ongoing homelessness crisis, cost of living crisis, and possible recent population decline are all directly tied to housing. Increasing housing supply is vital if Oregon is to remain prosperous.

This bill allows the state to require cities to have a set amount of housing built within their boundaries, while also giving them the ability to decide in how they wish to do so. While local discretion in housing policy will be allowed, NIMBY concerns over new development won't be able to be weaponized to the extent they currently are to reduce overall housing production numbers. Furthermore, the affordability and equity provisions of this bill will ensure that housing production won't just be located in poorer neighborhoods, and won't exclusively be for those above the AMI, creating a more egalitarian, affordable, and fair Oregon.

Cities will be free to examine their height restrictions, zoning codes, setback laws, lot sizes, discretionary review processes, system development charges, parking minimums, and administrative processes to produce more housing faster and more equitably. The success and failures of cities to meet production goals based on said reforms will be transparent, creating a marketplace of ideas for equitable and affordable housing production.

This bill is NOT a state takeover of local housing policy, nor does it challenge any of Oregon's longstanding land use and environmental laws. Should this bill pass, most new housing as the result of this bill would be infill.

This is a potentially landmark housing bill. I urge the passage of this bill.