



February 7, 2023

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2889 - Oregon Housing Needs Analysis

Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, Members of the Committee,

Oregon ranks 4th in underproducing housing in the country behind California, Colorado, and Utah. Oregon's housing undersupply threatens Oregonians ability to grow sustainably, move toward a more equitable economy, or address the full complexity of the homelessness crisis. Every region of Oregon needs to substantially increase the supply and production of homes.

Metro is tasked by Oregon statute with making decisions every six years about how and where the region will grow. Our region has a strong track record of upholding the goals of Oregon's statewide land use planning system – protecting farms and forests by facilitating efficient urban development, while providing additional room for people and jobs, by expanding the urban growth boundary, when needed.

In recent years, Metro partnered with stakeholders to ask voters to support housing for our region's vulnerable community members. In 2018, Metro voters approved an affordable housing bond that will have generated over \$650 million with the goal of creating homes for approximately 12,000 people through the creation of 3,900 affordable homes. In May 2020, voters in greater Portland approved a Supportive Housing Services measure to fund services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

HB 2889 recognizes Metro's increased role in the housing space with our two-voter approved housing measures and the coordinating role that regional governments can play in housing planning. Under 2889, Metro would be required to adopt housing coordination strategies rather than adopting specific policies (production strategies), such as local zoning codes and regulations. For example, regional housing coordination strategies could include identifying shared funding sources, sharing staff capacity, or entering intergovernmental agreements to promote housing production.

We appreciate our state partners recognizing the differing responsibilities in our region amongst Metro and our local jurisdictional partners. No one entity will be able to solve the housing crisis alone. The Metro region's approach centers around Metro's responsibility for forecasts and managing the UGB while cities and counties are responsible for zoning and service provision.

As you know, jurisdictions in Metro UGB still need additional clarity and resources to make HB 2889 workable for them. We cannot produce the necessary housing within our region

without our local jurisdictions. We urge the committee to work with all inside the Metro region who will be affected by HB 2889 to find an optimal pathway forward so that we can meet the goals of HB 2889, which are:

- Plan for what's needed.
- Build what's needed, where it's needed.
- Commit to working together with urgency.

Respectfully,

Jenna Jones
State and Regional Affairs Advisor
Metro

