



March 12, 2025

Representative Pam Marsh
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, H-474
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 2968,

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance to urge you to support HB 2968. This bill will boost housing production by reducing the cost of construction.

HB 2968 gives cities the option to defer the payment of systems development charges (SDC) until after new housing is constructed. Currently, those SDCs must be paid as a condition of receiving a building permit, which means the cost of the SDCs must be financed as part of the building's construction loan. Moving the date-of-payment for SDCs until after construction will significantly reduce the cost of building new housing. Meanwhile, this bill creates a state-managed fund and debt-collection authority that protects cities from any failure-to-pay on the part of developers.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a statewide coalition of over 100 member organizations, including tenant organizations; affordable housing developers and operators; social service providers and shelter operators; Community Action Agencies; Public Housing Authorities; housing industry businesses and professionals; city and county governments; and community-based nonprofits and advocacy groups.

Our diverse membership is united by the belief that every Oregonian deserves a home that is affordable, stable, accessible and safe. This means that Oregon needs to build more homes. To this end, we urge your support for HB 2968.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cameron Herrington".

Cameron Herrington
Oregon Housing Alliance
cherrington@neighborhoodpartnerships.org