

To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
From: Kevin Teater
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 2889 – Establishing an Oregon Housing Needs Analysis within Housing and Community Services Department
Date: February 7, 2023

My name is Kevin Teater. I am a Beaverton city councilor, but I am here in my personal capacity.

Housing and houselessness are two of the biggest challenges facing our state and our communities. I often feel like I, and many of my fellow advocates, are fighting for more housing and more affordable housing with such a piecemeal approach. Fight for this apartment building here. Fight for that townhome over there.

But right here and right now, we have such an opportunity to create a policy that would have far-reaching positive outcomes for our entire state!

As the cost of housing, both rental housing and home ownership, continues to increase, we have got to act now, so that people can afford to live in the communities we love so much.

Over the next 20 years in Beaverton, we anticipate needing almost 20,000 more homes. We need an all-inclusive approach to housing supply and affordability, because data shows that over 20% of people here will be below 50% of the Area Median Income.

Now, I don't want to get too prescriptive with specific policies I feel would help right now, but I absolutely believe that HB 2889 would set the goals that our local communities need to strive to meet. It would help us know where we are, and then it would help us know where we need to go.

For if some communities build housing, and others do not, all of our neighborhoods will continue to grow out of reach for everyday families. We need to take this next step as a state, together.

HB 2889 is a bill worth supporting.