

Submitter: Greg Watson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB974

Dear Members of the Senate Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB 974-1, which takes meaningful steps toward streamlining Oregon's land use approval process, reducing unnecessary delays, and lowering costs for housing development. As someone who works in the homebuilding industry, I see firsthand how excessive red tape and unpredictable approval timelines drive up costs and slow down much-needed housing production.

This bill will help address these challenges in several key ways:

- Simplifying the approval process through Limited Land Use Decisions will significantly speed up entitlements and reduce bureaucratic hurdles.
- Reimbursing legal and engineering fees discourages frivolous appeals that needlessly delay housing projects.
- A 120-day shot clock ensures that permit and engineering approvals happen within a clear and predictable timeframe.
- Eliminating aesthetic design reviews for house plans will reduce subjective barriers that add costs and delays without improving housing quality.

These common-sense reforms will make it easier and faster to deliver housing in Oregon, while still ensuring thoughtful planning and community input. SB 974-1 strikes a crucial balance between efficiency and responsible development, and I urge the committee to support its passage.

Sincerely,

Greg Watson