



February 7, 2026

Oregon Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Concerns with SB 1576 Relating to accessibility standards for housing

Chair Pham, Vice Chair Anderson, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the invitation to provide our input on SB 1576. Oregon Smart Growth is a coalition of responsible developers, investors and allied professionals committed to the feasible development of walkable, livable communities that are environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable for Oregon's future. Our members work extensively with accessibility laws and building codes and have long experience delivering housing that serves people of all abilities.

We support expanding access to housing for Oregonians with mobility needs. However, after reviewing the data cited in support of SB 1576, our members do not see clear, Oregon-specific evidence that supports increasing the Type A requirement from 2% to 10% across all qualifying multifamily buildings. The statistics referenced in support of this change rely on broad measures of mobility difficulty and do not distinguish between that population and the smaller subset of Oregonians who require a Type A unit.

Federal accessibility standards administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development are based on extensive research and already establish clear requirements for accessible housing. We have not seen evidence demonstrating that Oregon's need for Type A units differs materially from other states in a way that would justify a fivefold increase in this mandate. At the same time, Oregon continues to face significant challenges financing and producing housing at the scale needed to address our housing shortage.

Without clearer evidence tying this proposed increase to demonstrated demand for Type A units, there is a real risk of increasing housing costs without meaningfully improving access. For that reason, we respectfully urge the Legislature to pause this proposal and direct a focused study to better assess need and inform future policy.

Oregon Smart Growth would welcome the opportunity to participate in a work group during 2026 to help ensure any future changes are data-driven, effective, and proportional.

Sincerely,

Cassidy Bolger
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