

Submitter: Jordan Lewis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB49

Dear Chair Pham and Members of the Senate Housing Committee,

My name is Jordan Lewis and I live in the Goose Hollow neighborhood of Portland. I join Portland: Neighbors Welcome in supporting HB 49-1, the Housing Production Accelerator, which works to reduce regulatory burden to help build more housing across the state.

I am very fortunate to have a stable and well-paid desk job from home, so while I have some difficulties accessing the housing that I want in Americas dysfunctional housing market, I instead choose to highlight the experiences of a close friend who is a freelance artist. They need a separate studio space from their bedroom in order to do the work that pays their rent, so their living situation has been to share a house in northwest Portland with a couple. The couple have sadly broken up, and so my friend has had to find another living space, possibly on their own. They do not drive, instead walking and relying on transit, so the location in Portland city center is necessary. There simply are not enough 1-bedroom apartments in this city to go around at affordable rents. Senate Bill 49, with the -1 amendment, will reduce regulatory burden to help build more housing across the state. I aspire to an Oregon that can accommodate a vibrant and diverse population of immigrants, not just those like me who are gainfully technically employed. We all deserve this level of dignity when it comes to housing.

This bill will help people live near jobs that invest in their community, provide greater opportunity for jurisdictions to responsibly pursue Inclusionary Zoning, allow more people to stay in their communities as they age, and make use of vacant lots to help neighborhoods be vibrant.

Thank you.