



PETER COURTNEY
President of the Senate

Senate Committee on Housing and Development

Senator Kayse Jama, Chair
Senator Dennis Linthicum, Vice-Chair
Senator Dick Anderson
Senator Jeff Golden
Senator Deb Patterson

*TESTIMONY BY SENATOR PETER COURTNEY
SB 8
March 16, 2021*

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Linthicum, members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development, thank you for hearing my testimony today. My name is Peter Courtney. I am a State Senator. I live in NE Salem. I am here to testify in support of SB 8.

SB 8 removes various barriers to building affordable housing throughout Oregon, including easing zoning restrictions, increasing density, and allowing for attorney fees to prevailing parties to the Land Use Board of Appeals.

This bill addresses various barriers developers, cities, and non-profits face when trying to build affordable housing. While others today will go into the details of this bill, the basics of this bill are to increase affordable housing across cities in Oregon.

This housing crisis isn't just about the affordability of housing. If the only apartment you can afford is two towns over and a 70-minute car ride to your work, I don't think we've solved the problem. SB 8 is about building affordable housing where people want to live. Affordable housing shouldn't be relegated to certain areas or cities. People in affordable housing should be able to live in the same town they work in. Take the bus to the grocery store. Grab the light rail to movies. Walk to the restaurant down the street.

We have done a lot over the years to increase housing in Oregon, but we still are in a crisis. SB 8 is the next step in addressing that crisis. We need to make it easier to build affordable housing, and that's exactly what SB 8 will do.