



TO: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

FROM: Brian Sjothun, City Manager

RE: SB 1537 **DATE:** February 8, 2024

POSITION: Support

The City of Medford supports Senate Bill 1537 and recognizes the efforts of the Governor's office to address the housing shortage in Oregon.

City staff have been included in discussions with the Governor's office, specifically Matthew Tschabold, and our comments were received and many incorporated into the final draft bill. We are appreciative of Mr. Tschabold's outreach to us and other cities in crafting this bill and hope that future major legislation will be just as collaborative.

As with most bills, not all our concerns and comments have been addressed. However, this bill is a start to building all forms of housing for the state and our local region.

This bill supports the City Council's biennial goals for 2023-25:

- Goal #18 – Increase housing opportunities throughout Medford with an emphasis on providing housing options for households earning 80-120 percent of area median income.
- Goal #19 – Continue implementation of the Homeless System Action Plan

This bill also supports the Medford 2040 Vision & Action Plan:

- Goal #2 – Recruit and foster development opportunities
- Goal #4 – Encourage mixed-use development
- Goal #12 – Establish resources and policies to build mixed-affordability housing
- Goal #21 – Improve housing access and security

Senate Bill 1537 also outlines processes for development review that the City of Medford has begun moving towards. This bill validates the direction of those processes that our Mayor, Council and staff support.

We urge you to support Senate Bill 1537.