



March 21, 2023

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS
Oregon State Capitol 900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: House Bill 3309 – Testimony in Support

Chair Dexter and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on HB 3309. Since 2004, Housing Land Advocates (HLA) has worked to ensure that Oregonians of all income levels can obtain adequate and affordable housing. **We are proponents of land use policies and planning choices that advance affordable, fair, and equitable housing outcomes—including the creation of accessible housing for people with disabilities—, which is why we support HB 3309.** The goal of affordable, accessible housing is already set forth in HB 2001, the Governor’s priority bill to achieve enough housing for all who need it. This bill will help Oregon achieve that goal.

HB 3309 requires Oregon’s Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS), the agency responsible for overseeing and administering the housing funds that are most likely to achieve affordable housing, to:

- (1) Ensure that new multifamily housing makes at least 7.5% of units accessible to people with mobility impairments and at least 3% of units accessible to people with a hearing or visual disability (a higher percentage of accessibility than required under the strictest federal laws);
- (2) Report on the number of dwelling units that include these accessibility features under its funding procedures;
- (3) Conduct a study as to the provision of accessible dwellings by type and unmet need. (There is currently no such inventory, which makes it quite difficult for people with disabilities to find accessible housing.);
- (4) Incorporate incentives to increase the quantity and quality of accessible units wherever possible; and

(5) Consider and receive advice from people with disabilities and disability service and advocacy organizations with respect to its programs. Such input is critical to ensuring that government funds are used wisely and in the most helpful ways for such individuals.

As we continue to follow the progress of this bill and consider comments submitted by our colleagues, we may find it necessary to submit additional comments. Thank you for your leadership and for considering this testimony.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jennifer Bragar

Jennifer Bragar
President

cc: (all by e-mail)
Matthew Seres, Fair Housing Council of Oregon
Board