

February 6, 2022

Senator Jama, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition to SB 1537

Chair Jama and members of the Committee,

I support efforts to prevent displacement of members of historically disadvantaged communities, but Senate Bill 1537 is not the way to assist those individuals.

Senate Bill 1537 has been brought forward by industry groups with no process and seemingly no stakeholder engagement with the communities it professes to protect. Engaging with those communities should be the first step in establishing policy that is designed to protect their interests.

The expansive nature of the bill may be unprecedented. It would restrict the ability of 12 different state agencies from not only adopting any new rule, but modifying or rescinding any existing rule as well. The potential impacts of this bill are so far reaching it may be impossible to quantify them.

As a baseline, the stated purpose of the bill is wholly unnecessary. Cost assessments are already built into agency rulemaking processes. For example, the Building Codes Division regularly assesses the cost impact of any new code advancements. This bill puts a new, burdensome, and ill-defined layer onto that work.

Senate Bill 1537 is yet another example of a long trend of anti-regulation legislation that is intended to constrain state agencies and make it harder to enact new regulations or rules.

I strongly urge you to oppose Senate Bill 1537.

Sincerely,
Ashley Haight

--



Ashley Haight
Program Manager, ZERO Coalition

O [503.968.7160](tel:503.968.7160)
x32 **E** ahaight@zerocoalitionoregon.org **W** zerocoalitionoregon.org