

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

Hello,

My name is Jonathan Greenwood, and I live in the Kenton neighborhood of North Portland. I am a member of Portland: Neighbors Welcome, but I am speaking as a concerned citizen today. I want to express my strong support of SB 49-1. We are living in a time of deep inequality, built on a history of racism and further injustices. It has led us to a reality that we are not meeting the needs of Oregonians in terms of what I believe is the human right to have a home. I see a way out of Oregon's housing shortage is to build as much abundant housing in well-connected, service- and transit-rich neighborhoods as possible. I started getting involved with Portland: Neighbors Welcome in 2019 as a way to channel my energy into this. My husband and I have been lucky enough to own a home in such a neighborhood, and I want others to be able to do the same. At home, we already provide housing for a disabled couple at well below market rate rent. They are our friends, and we are happy to help them live in Portland even though without my help they would likely not be able to live in this city. I've also experienced housing precarity in my life when I had to live rent-free for several years with friends. I think I should call that homelessness, as if I wasn't under the good graces of friends, I would have been living on the streets. Housing should not depend on charity! It should be a social good. However, to get there we need abundance, an abundance built on the same footprint of existing urban growth boundaries. Anything that makes it easier to build new housing that doesn't sprawl is for the benefit of us all, in my opinion. If we make this planet a greener place because of such efforts, all the better. Make it easier to build housing abundance in Oregon. Pass SB 49-1. And continue moving forward with even more legislation with the same goals.

Thank you.