



Sheila Stiley, Board chair – NW Coastal Housing

Kymberly Horner – Vice-chair - Portland Community Reinvestment Inc.

Rachael Duke, Secretary - Community Partners for Affordable Housing

Trell Anderson, Treasurer –NW Housing Alternatives

David Brandt, Housing Works

Wakan Alferes Homes for Good

Ernesto Fonseca - Hacienda CDC

Maria Elena Guerra - Farmworker Housing Development Corp

Garrick Harmel – Casa of Oregon

Nkenge Harmon Johnson – Urban League of Portland

Foster Martinez – St. Vincent de Paul Lane County

Kristy Rodriguez – Housing Authority of Malheur & Harney Counties

February 24, 2022

Senate Committee on Rules
Senator Rob Wagner, Chair
Senator Tim Knopp, Vice Chair
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Oppose SB 1537 with -2 amendment –Creates Unnecessary Task Force with Burdensome Requirements on Agencies When Providing Fiscal Impact Statements

Dear Chair Wagner and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1537 and the -2 amendment. We ask you to not move the bill or the amendment forward.

Housing Oregon is a membership-based statewide association of affordable housing nonprofit developers committed to serving and supporting low-income Oregonians across the housing needs spectrum – from homeless to homeowner. We are working towards a day when every Oregonian has a safe and healthy place to call home.

The -2 amendment would create an 11-member Task Force and direct it to “conduct a comprehensive review of how housing impact statements should be modernized to reflect current housing policies and are developed for administrative rules.” It then provides a long list of issues for the task force to consider.

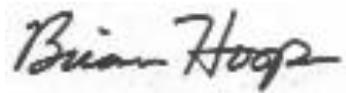
Like the base bill, the -2 amendment seems designed as a one-more-bite-at-the-apple attempt to undermine policies that the legislature set and directed agencies to implement through rules. The scope of the bill is broad, the task force is not representative of that scope, and many of the issues assigned to be covered in a cost impact statement are not really appropriate for that type of document.

The proposed task force does not include critical stakeholders in this scope, including state agencies (such as the Departments of Environmental Quality and Energy, and various health & safety divisions) and related community groups.

Finally, we are concerned that the -2 amendment, like the base bill, seems focused on short term costs and does not include short- or long-term benefits to both the resident and the community, such as health, safety, cleaner air and water, living near amenities, walkability, reduction in wildfire risk, and much more.

We respectfully urge you to not proceed with SB 1537 or the -2 amendment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Hoop". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Brian" on top and "Hoop" below it, slightly overlapping.

Brian Hoop
Executive Director
Housing Oregon