

February 7, 2024

Dear Senate Committee On Housing and Development,

Our families, our friends, our neighbors in this great state of Oregon need you to take bold action to solve our housing crisis this Session. Providing homes for our neighbors in need and grossly overlooked affordable housing for our work force who deserve the right to be able to buy a home.

I also believe that our current planning and growth management system constrain us to reach the levels of production we need to properly house Oregonians. Continuing along the path we are on will only reinforce inequities in our system and make our housing backlog worse. We must reframe our sys- SB 1537 would do just that and tem with urgency and a bold approach to meeting housing proposes one of the strongest needs, which includes a serious addressing the land constraints requirements for affordable housing production in the United that drive up the cost of hous- States.

I am especially supportive of the UGB process guarantees that as it will allow cities and builders to provide complete, walkable, mixed-use communities of all types and tenures, including homeownership. Additionally, the strongest affordability require- while the current UGB expansion does not.

SB 1537 would do just that and proposes one of the strongest requirements for affordable housing production in the United States. SB 1537 is a step in the right direction to increase housing production and bring down the costs of housing for Oregonians. For these reasons, I encourage you to make meaningful impactful change in the lives of our Oregonians this Session in making the changes that are needed.

Thank you,

Anne Bridget Geertsen