

Submitter: Barbara Mencer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB737

I am writing in strong support of SB 737, sponsored by Senator Gelser Blouin. This bill is a thoughtful and much-needed measure that enhances transparency, promotes community engagement, and ensures responsible growth in our neighborhoods.

As Oregon continues to welcome more housing options—particularly middle housing—it is critical that we update our processes to keep communities informed and prepared. SB 737 takes several important steps in that direction:

Extending notification areas to 300 feet ensures that more residents who may be directly impacted by a proposed development are aware and can participate in the process.

Requiring notice of whether an application triggers a traffic study helps the public understand potential impacts to safety and congestion early in the process.

Mandating that cities assess the infrastructure needs related to new developments will promote smarter, more sustainable growth that doesn't leave residents grappling with overloaded systems.

Providing clear information on how System Development Charges (SDCs) will be applied and how infrastructure and traffic concerns will be assessed empowers residents to engage knowledgeably and constructively with city planning processes.

These are not anti-housing measures—they are pro-transparency, pro-accountability, and pro-community. By passing SB 737, the legislature can help ensure that Oregon continues to grow in a way that is equitable, informed, and responsive to both current and future residents.