



Coalition of
Communities of
Color

February 9, 2022

Re: Opposition to SB 1537

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SB 1537, expanding housing cost impact statements. My name is Jenny Lee, and I am the Deputy Director at the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC), an alliance of culturally specific community-based organizations dedicated to collective action for racial justice.

We greatly appreciate all of the Committee's work to address Oregon's housing needs, both in the short- and long-term, and to identify opportunities to increase our supply of affordable homes. However, SB 1537 in its current form does not advance this goal. A number of concerns have been raised by other advocates regarding the unintended consequences of this legislation, especially its implications for climate justice. CCC shares many of these concerns, but we would particularly like to note our concerns with the process used to develop this legislation.

CCC represents 18 member organizations; housing and homeownership are important priorities for many of our members, as well as climate justice. However, we have not been consulted in the development of this bill, and there is not sufficient capacity or time during this session to ensure the meaningful engagement of communities of color. Communities most impacted by issues—in this case, access to safe, affordable homes—are essential stakeholders in developing policies that will shape their lives. In Oregon, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color have been some of those most affected by spiking rents, record home prices, and displacement, compounded by decades of housing discrimination.

We must be genuine participants and collaborators in addressing our state's housing issues. We look forward to continuing to work with you to create housing stability for all Oregonians, and to identify ways to address the severe disparities in housing stability and homeownership.

Thank you again for the opportunity to raise our concerns with regard to this legislation, and we hope that you will decline to move this legislation forward today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Lee".

Jenny Lee
Deputy Director
Coalition of Communities of Color