

Submitter: Benjamin Roche
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB878

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

I write today in support of Senate Bill 878, which takes an important step toward addressing Oregon's housing crisis by allowing rural homeowners to add an additional dwelling for family members. This bill provides a practical solution for multi-generational living, increases housing opportunities in rural areas, and helps alleviate the growing affordability challenges that many Oregonians face.

Expanding housing options outside urban growth boundaries is essential for ensuring that families can remain close while maintaining financial independence. Manufactured and modular homes offer a high-quality, cost-effective alternative to traditional housing, and SB 878 allows rural property owners to make better use of their land to meet their housing needs.

However, one concern that must be addressed is the wildfire hazard mapping that has placed unnecessary restrictions on rural development. These maps have been widely criticized for their inaccuracies and for unfairly limiting property rights. They should be rescinded to ensure that rural homeowners are not subjected to arbitrary and burdensome regulations that hinder responsible housing expansion.

SB 878 offers a sensible approach to expanding housing options while maintaining necessary safeguards. I urge you to support this bill and take additional action to remove the flawed wildfire hazard maps that create unnecessary barriers for rural Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.