

My name is Aaron Brown, and I'm a resident of the St Johns neighborhood in North Portland, Oregon. I'm writing to ask legislators to approve HB 2558, for increased housing opportunity around frequent transit stations. There are many neighborhoods in the Portland region that are lucky to have received billions of dollars of investment in high capacity transit. We should be attempting to leverage these substantial investments by providing the opportunity for as many people to live near said investments as possible. Doing so provides the opportunity for that many more housing units to be built by private developers (no cost to the state!) at a time in which our state desperately needs more housing. It provides the opportunity to provide *that* many more homes for people who want to live a low-carbon lifestyle without ownership of a private automobile, as we approach an ever-looming climate crisis. It legalizes more economic development through housing construction as we attempt to recover from the pandemic-caused economic crash.

I defer to the testimony of groups like Portland: Neighbors Welcome, Oregon Environmental Council, Sightline, and others to discuss on ways in which this bill could be improved - it's such a small drop in the bucket compared to what we currently need to reshift our state towards more dense, walkable neighborhoods connected by frequent and reliable transit. But HB 2558 is a start, and we need every drop in the bucket we can get, especially when it won't cost the state hardly anything to administer. I encourage you to say yes to more housing, yes to more low-carbon living arrangements, and yes to making our transit investments more cost-effective. Please push forward with HB 2558.