

While bill SB 1537 supposes to aid low-income communities, in actuality, it will have a number of harmful and severe consequences. This bill makes significant changes to existing laws that would have damaging impacts on the ability of agencies, lawmakers and local communities to advance critical regulations that improve lives and our communities. A number of regulations related to climate action, public health, wildfire prevention, and safety would be critically weakened.

This bill underhandedly constrains state agencies and makes it extremely difficult to enact beneficial and necessary regulations/rules. It creates a vague and complex path for legislative procedures that must be made in order for regulation to be upheld. This bill adds burdensome red tape to what must be included in regulatory standards when there are already cost assessments built into agency rulemaking. It wastes taxpayers money when we unnecessarily mandate legislative detours requiring additional state agencies into an already well-established process. Essentially, the bill's excessive requirements could make agency rulemaking and compliance prohibitively expensive and complicated.

Why would we want this?

While I support the goal of preventing the displacement of low income people in our community, this legislation was only constructed by the Oregon Homebuilders to benefit their profits and prevent loss of their own income. Even if they try to hide it, they are making a clear picture of their intent here; they could care less about the future of our community and the associated risks we face if their bottom line is compromised. When we are unable to enact legislation that prevents the emergent disasters forthcoming in our climate crisis, what difference will profits have then? Vote against this farce of a bill please.