

Submitter: Lucy Hitchcock

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1537

Frankly, Senate Bill 1537 sounds like a means of creating red tape to delay or prevent the adoption of new rules in Oregon, such as those proposed in our climate action plans, which might inconvenience home builders. For example, I am witnessing and learning about new homes being built in Salem with insufficient insulation or with gas heating and gas appliances, both of which prolong and augment the discharge of fossil fuel pollutants. This may be cheaper or easier for builders to execute, but it delays, and often makes financially impossible, the later upgrades and replacement to electric of appliances that must be accomplished if we are to meet our climate temperature goals.

Rather than helping low income new and continuing residents, or their landlords in multiplexes, it will make it harder for them to reprovise to all electric homes and afford their utility bills. And, with continuing fires, air and water pollution and droughts, needless state agencies' costs and delays in rule changes will negatively affect the health and safety of all Oregonians. Cost impact statements are already required in existing laws.

Please do not rush, in this short session, to pass a bill that has not been studied as to why home builders are eager to see it passed and its effects elsewhere. And, with the multiple stipulations passed and being proposed to install new and urgently needed climate mitigation and health policies, do not enable encumbrances that must then be removed to meet Oregon's goals.