



February 8, 2022

Sen. Kayse Jama, Chair and Committee Members
Senate Committee on Housing and Development
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 1537 (Housing Impact Statement)

Dear Chair Jama and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **opposition to SB 1537**. For 36 years, Central Oregon LandWatch (COLW) has been working to create well-planned cities and protect wild, open spaces across our region.

We support efforts to prevent displacement of historically disadvantaged communities, but Senate Bill 1537 is not the way to do this. Rather, SB 1537 adds unnecessary, complex and burdensome layers and constraints to agency rulemaking processes.

The bill requires that a “housing cost impact statement ... be prepared upon the proposal for adoption or repeal of any rule or any amendment to an existing rule by” named agencies. This bill would unduly restrict the rulemaking ability of twelve different state agencies.

Furthermore, the housing impact statement would apply only to single family homes, would require additional complex and poorly defined evaluations, and would not take into account long term benefits to residents or communities from the proposed rulemaking or regulation. We strongly urge you not to move forward with SB 1537.

Sincerely,

Corie Harlan
Cities & Towns Program Manager
Central Oregon LandWatch