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Housing*

*Kymberly Horner –
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*Trell Anderson,
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*David Brandt,
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*Wakan Alferes
Homes for Good*

*Ernesto Fonseca -
Hacienda CDC*

*Maria Elena Guerra -
Farmworker Housing
Development Corp*

*Garrick Harmel –
Casa of Oregon*

*Nkenge Harmon
Johnson – Urban
League of Portland*

*Foster Martinez – St.
Vincent de Paul Lane
County*

*Kristy Rodriguez –
Housing Authority of
Malheur & Harney
Counties*

February 24, 2022

Senate Committee on Rules
Senator Rob Wagner, Chair
Senator Tim Knopp, Vice Chair
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR 97301

Re: **Oppose** SB 1537 with -2 amendment –Creates Unnecessary
Task Force with Burdensome Requirements on Agencies When
Providing Fiscal Impact Statements

Dear Chair Wagner and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1537
and the -2 amendment. We ask you to not move the bill or the
amendment forward.

Housing Oregon is a membership-based statewide association of
affordable housing nonprofit developers committed to serving and
supporting low-income Oregonians across the housing needs
spectrum – from homeless to homeowner. We are working
towards a day when every Oregonian has a safe and healthy
place to call home.

The -2 amendment would create an 11-member Task Force and
direct it to “conduct a comprehensive review of how housing
impact statements should be modernized to reflect current
housing policies and are developed for administrative rules.” It
then provides a long list of issues for the task force to consider.

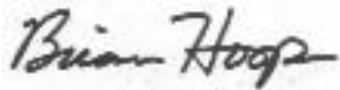
Like the base bill, the -2 amendment seems designed as a one-
more-bite-at-the-apple attempt to undermine policies that the
legislature set and directed agencies to implement through rules.
The scope of the bill is broad, the task force is not representative
of that scope, and many of the issues assigned to be covered in a
cost impact statement are not really appropriate for that type of
document.

The proposed task force does not include critical stakeholders in this scope, including state agencies (such as the Departments of Environmental Quality and Energy, and various health & safety divisions) and related community groups.

Finally, we are concerned that the -2 amendment, like the base bill, seems focused on short term costs and does not include short- or long-term benefits to both the resident and the community, such as health, safety, cleaner air and water, living near amenities, walkability, reduction in wildfire risk, and much more.

We respectfully urge you to not proceed with SB 1537 or the -2 amendment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Hoop". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian Hoop
Executive Director
Housing Oregon