

Submitter: Morgan Greenwood  
On Behalf Of: Central Oregon Builders Association  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB3414

Dear Chair Fahey and Distinguished Committee Members,

On behalf of the 767 members of the Central Oregon Builders Association, I thank your consideration of House Bill 3414, and urge you to approve its passage - Oregon's dire housing deficit cannot be addressed without the policy changes that HB 3414 proposes. Homebuilders and housing advocates alike recognize that the administrative roadblocks that currently exist are drastically reducing the amount of homes built that could be constructed every year. Continuing along our current path will only reinforce inequities in our system and make our housing backlog worse. It is time for the State and local governments to address the housing crisis with urgency, and take bold steps to meet our housing need.

COBA supports the approach taken in HB 3414 to increase enforcement at the local level. This will create more housing across the income spectrum more quickly, and will grant flexibility from certain planning requirements that will allow more projects of different types and price points to be built. As evidenced by the success seen in California, strong accountability measures and technical assistance can be leveraged to clear the way for thousands of new units, statewide. Additionally, limiting the conditions under which local governments may deny needed variances for housing development can eliminate many arbitrary requirements that prevent needed units from being constructed.

We urge you to support House Bill 3414 in order to make meaningful steps towards reducing the State's housing deficit.

Thank you for your consideration,

Morgan Greenwood  
Vice-President, Government Affairs  
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