



February 7, 2027

To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

From: Peter Hainley, CASA of Oregon

Re: HB 2889

Chair Dexter, Vice Chairs Helfrich and Gamba, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Peter Hainley. I am the executive director of CASA of Oregon. CASA has been working with local communities to create housing, facilities and asset building opportunities for 35 years.

Oregon's land use and housing laws are due for an update. When these laws were created a couple generations ago, they were a statement of what we wanted to see at the time. They were a 30,000 foot view rather than a blueprint for what we needed to do to make sure Oregonians have safe, decent and affordable housing. While these goals and objectives were visionary in the prevention of sprawl and protecting valuable farmlands, the systems and process that have subsequently been created have not been kind to those of us who have as a mission the creation of affordable housing.

So here we are, 50 years later with a housing crisis. We need a blueprint that will work for all the cities in Oregon without trying to create a one-size, fits-all solution. Goal 10 has been a guidepost without a guidebook. Now is the time for us to create an implementation manual that cities will be able to use so that our communities have choice about what gets built in their community and how that will happen in an efficient and effective manner.

Years of state and local regulations have created a system of processes and requirements that are not conducive to the production of affordable housing. HB 2889 will provide a way forward by establishing a methodology that assess housing need based on income at the local level. The Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD) has Housing Production Strategies (HPS) that will help cities to meet their housing needs. The HPS will assist cities in helping them to deliver affordable, fair, and equitable housing choices for all. And the success of these strategies will be measured with the collection of data on a city's housing outcomes and accessibility, ensuring accountability. We are confident that this bill will be a game changer.

CASA urges you to pass HB 2889. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter Hainley
Executive Director