



DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

February 7, 2023

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2889

Chair Dexter, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Helfrich and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karen Saxe and I work for DevNW, an affordable housing development and counseling agency serving Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Marion and Clackamas Counties.

We support HB 2889, the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis as it is a critical step in providing comprehensive, system-wide reforms needed to reverse decades of underinvestment.

DevNW provides financial, rental and pre-purchase education and counseling, paired with financial resources, throughout our six counties. Despite our work, our clients face skyrocketing housing costs in all communities due to a lack of housing supply, a direct result of a structural mismatch between local zoning and development practices and changing family sizes, incomes and needs. Our communities need increased affordable housing options throughout the housing continuum.

As an affordable housing developer (both rental and for ownership), we deeply support the goals of the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis. With varying consensus at the local level, we are forced to navigate unique processes and requirements within each community, resulting in increased time and costs in order to create additional housing opportunities.

We are excited at the opportunities within HB 2889 to work collaboratively with our local jurisdictions to develop Housing Production Strategies to meet the housing needs of our communities. We support the integrated approaches within HB 2889 in evaluating zoning, infrastructure, local systems and investments, as we know each is critically important in creating, or hampering, our ability to develop more housing.



DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

We know that every Oregonian deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. We thank you for all of your work on behalf of our communities and urge your support of HB 2889.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KSaxe".

Karen Saxe
Director of Policy, Advocacy and Strategic Relationships
DevNW