

Submitter: Michael James

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB2001

Dear Members of this Committee:

Our state is in crisis. There are urgent housing needs and long-term supply challenges that require immediate action. The state has been tasked with creating more annual housing starts than have been realized at any point in the past 45 years.

Urban Growth Boundaries in the state of Oregon have not only artificially restricted the supply of developable land, thus making housing less affordable, but they have also had a disparate impact on communities of color. Restrictions on development in these areas have done little more than further marginalize these groups and relegate them to dangerous urban centers replete with cramped and substandard housing, violent criminals walking the streets, and rampant exposure to bedbugs.

Many organizations throughout the state have tried to silence this fact.

Oregon Housing and Community Services should be tasked with not only conducting the research that clearly demonstrates this disparate impact, but should go a step further and shine light on those organizations who have worked to hide this information in the guise of preserving these scenic vistas exclusively for wealthy residents of the state, and helping already wealthy landowners further increase the value of land through a corrupt UGB process.