

FROM – George Grabenhorst  
TO – Senate Committee On Housing and Development  
SUBJECT – Please Support SB 1051-2

I am writing to urge you to support SB 1051 with the -2 amendments. Oregon is the fourth most underproduced state in the nation as a share of our existing housing stock, and as a result, our housing costs are among the highest in the country. Some experts have found that Oregon is the fourth least affordable place to live in the US.

We desperately need more housing to bring down the cost of living for Oregon families. Many are struggling to find affordable and attainable housing, and as a result, a substantial portion of our communities are cost burdened by their housing payments. SB 1051-2 provides small and large cities alike with a carefully crafted, impactful tool to ramp up housing production and ultimately lower the cost of living in Oregon.

By allowing for small, reasonable expansions of urban growth boundaries into already designated urban reserves, SB 1051-2 would provide our cities with a new tool to help address our state's severe underproduction. Our cities need every tool available to them to develop more housing, create jobs, and bring down costs for Oregon families. Passing SB 1051-2 would provide cities with a new, creative, and impactful tool to begin addressing Oregon's housing crisis.

Limited buildable lands drive up costs in the same way that limited housing inventory does. The beauty of SB 1051-2 is that it brings lands into development today that are already planned for development tomorrow. In the long run, this means that we don't actually lose more of the lands that make Oregon beautiful, while in the short run, we gain lands that make Oregon more livable.

SB 1051-2 is a modest, but important solution. It provides a voluntary tool for cities that utilizes the power of partnerships to achieve results. SB 1051-2 will help us produce needed housing for some of our most important workers, such as firefighters, nurses, teachers, small business owners, and public employees. We rely on these workers for so much. The least we can do in return is give them the opportunity to find housing that they can afford.

The Governor, the Legislature, and our state agencies have all agreed that addressing our housing crisis is a top priority, but without creative solutions like SB 1051-2, our state will be unable to address the crisis at the scale and speed that is needed to protect Oregon families and their budgets.

Please support SB 1051 with the -2 amendment.