

Submitter: Raymond Cunningham

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB847

Hello there,

My name is Mac Cunningham. I am a Housing Developer for a nonprofit housing organization located in the Portland Metro Region. I support this bill as proposed, and I am especially in support of Amendment 4 which would allow Point-Access Blocks otherwise known as single-stair buildings for those six floors or less.

Amendment 4 would allow for greater diversity in the types of housing which can be produced. Current building codes limit construction of larger multi-family buildings to double-loaded corridors. This building design makes the inclusion of family sized units (two-bedrooms or more) very challenging and thus incentivizes the construction of more studio and one-bedroom apartments. While those smaller housing types are needed during our housing crisis, we need to encourage more opportunities for families to raise children in multi-family buildings. As more and more families struggle to afford housing and enough space to support a family, I highly urge the committee to adopt this amendment. Modern building codes and technologies help to minimize the risk of fire for neighboring apartments, which is the reason most cited for double-loaded corridors to be necessary. We should legalize this form of building which is currently permitted in much of the rest of the world.

Thank you,

Mac Cunningham,