

February 7, 2024

Dear Senate Committee On Housing and Development,

Our families, our friends, our neighbors in this great state of Oregon need you to take bold action to solve our housing crisis this Session. Providing homes for our neighbors in need and grossly overlooked affordable housing for our work force who deserve the right to be able to buy a home.

I also believe that our current planning and growth management system constrain us to reach the levels of production we need to properly house Oregonians. Continuing along the path we are on will only reinforce inequities in our system and make our housing backlog worse. We must reframe our system with urgency and a bold approach to meeting housing needs, which includes a serious addressing the land constraints that drive up the cost of housing.

SB 1537 would do just that and proposes one of the strongest requirements for affordable housing production in the United States.

I am especially supportive of the one-time UGB expansion piece as it will allow cities and builders to work together to build complete, walkable, mixed-use communities, that includes housing of all types and tenures, including opportunities for affordable homeownership. Additionally, the bill includes one of the strongest affordability requirements in the United States. This UGB process guarantees that affordable housing will be built, while the current UGB expansion does not.

SB 1537 would do just that and proposes one of the strongest requirements for affordable housing production in the United States. SB 1537 is a step in the right direction to increase housing production and bring down the costs of housing for Oregonians. For these reasons, I encourage you to make meaningful impactful change in the lives of our Oregonians this Session in making the changes that are needed.

Thank you,

Anne Bridget Geertsen