

Submitter: Katherine Fredricks

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1537

Chair Jama and Committee, My name is Katherine Fredricks and I'm testifying on behalf of Climate Reality Project Portland regarding SB 1537. Because we share your goal of solving the housing crisis, which goes hand in hand with supporting public health and our climate, we urge amendments.

First, eliminate the broad brush Urban Growth Boundary expansion. Building outside the UGB is expensive because of increased infrastructure like roads, sewer and water. Plus, the travel cost of urban sprawl hampers affordability.

Second, clarify the balance of funding that will go to low income housing versus moderate income. The bill says low "or" moderate income housing. That word "or" could result in little or no low income housing being built. Low income housing is the greatest need and indeed the justification for the bill. We need housing for people making less than 80% of area median income. In no case should the "affordability" boundary be raised to 130% of AMI as is currently in Section 55.

Finally, we thank you for including the 20 million for electrification incentives in affordable housing. This will enhance public health, reduce environmental injustice, and keep housing affordable for residents and builders. Please increase the electrification funding!

Thank you.