



Sightline Institute is an independent, nonpartisan think tank working to make the Pacific Northwest a global model of sustainability. I work on our housing program, looking for ways we can affordably and efficiently house every Oregonian.

I'm writing in support of DLCD's proposed 2025-27 budget and offering a bit of detail on how the money gets spent. I serve alongside various Oregonians on the "Housing Actions Work Group," part of the OHNA rulemaking process that is aiming to accelerate homebuilding in Oregon. Our mission, through the end of this year, is to assist DLCD staff and its small team of consultants in developing **a set of "adoption-ready actions" that local governments can take** to adopt effective practices and reduce local regulatory and procedural barriers to housing.

For context: If our state were to try to house every Oregonian simply by throwing money at the problem – building every low-income Oregonian a new home at the approximate price they can afford – it would cost about \$4 billion every biennium. Oregon doesn't have that kind of money. Instead, **what we need to do is reduce the cost of building homes**, both for the public and the private sectors. This is how we will unlock the private investment needed to keep up with housing demand.

These adoption-ready actions are an effort to cut those costs. The OHNA rules set out to identify these actions and to steer underperforming cities to adopt them. POP 503 includes \$200,000 – that's something like half what the public spends on a single 60% AMI home – to finish crafting these actions that we can reasonably hope will unlock tens of thousands of additional homes, if they're crafted correctly. The same package includes \$1.5 million (about four below-market homes) for grants to local governments working on compliance.

On a related subject, POP 501 includes \$3.5 million (about nine below-market homes) to support code updates and other work by the Housing Accountability and Production Office. Again, **a small amount of public money would unlock many more homes than the state could ever afford to pay for one at a time.**

Michael Andersen  
director, cities + towns