

Submitter: Alissa Tower

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3031

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Committee Members,

Greetings from Bend!

I am writing today to ask you to support HB 3031.

Nearly every city in Oregon – large and small – has land the community has already decided is good for housing, yet more homes have not been built there because extensions or upgrades of water and sewer lines, local roads, and sidewalks are expensive and there isn't sufficient funding.

Just the other day, I was on a walk with a friend and this was our topic of discussion. She is working to build a cottage community here in Bend, but one of the biggest obstacles is the cost of the infrastructure because the property is on one of the unmaintained roads in Bend.

Bend needs more housing and we need to infill our cities. Building affordable housing well outside of the urban center is not ideal for low-income residents. It places them too far from the services they need. We need money to complete infrastructure projects.

Decades ago, this infrastructure was commonly funded by federal, state, and local funding sources, but those have significantly dwindled. This long-term underinvestment has negatively impacted building the housing Oregonians need.

Housing advocates, builders, cities, and organizations that I support all agree that investing in these lands is one of the most important steps the state can take now to unlock parcels within our cities to quickly produce the housing we need, where we need it to be, including places located closer to schools, parks, and stores.

With many priorities before us, I hope you will quickly pass HB 3031.

Thank you for your consideration! I appreciated this opportunity to weigh in.

Warmly,  
Alissa Tower

