

Submitter: Summer Baird
On Behalf Of: Storydwelling faith community
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 your Bend neighbor!

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.

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.

Making communities that welcome new neighbors of a variety of means and backgrounds will strengthen our communities. It will encourage flexibility and tolerance in a time that these values are needing to be reaffirmed as well as new businesses. Most importantly it will provide the classically American opportunity central to our country- of being a place one can better one's situation.

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,
Summer Baird