

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness Chair Representative Pam Marsh Oregon State Capitol 900 Court Street, NE Salem, OR 97301 March 4, 2025

Re: Support for HB 2138 - Expanding Middle Housing and Infill Development

Dear Chair Marsh and Members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

Our coalition, <u>Partners for Affordable Housing</u> is writing today to express our support for House Bill 2138. Housing costs are hurting families and harming our economic prosperity throughout Central Oregon. Updating policies and removing restrictions to allow for more middle income housing will lead to an increase in housing production and affordability.

Partners for Affordable Housing coalition members share a vision that housing will be available and affordable to everyone. We are a diverse coalition of impacted people and organizations developing and educating on bold solutions that increase housing supply and lower housing costs. Supporting solutions like this is a core mission of our organization and we are grateful to the Legislature for bringing forward bills such as HB 2138.

We specifically support the passage of HM 2138 in order to:

- Create more missing middle housing in the form of duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes, townhomes, and cottage clusters in urban areas and on unincorporated lands.
- Draw down the housing deficit of hundreds of thousands of units.
- Improve affordability as there is more supply to meet demand.
- Create more walkable neighborhoods in our urban centers.
- Provide more homeownership and rental opportunities.
- Eliminate barriers to development.

Opening the door for more housing types and density will benefit our communities with a more sustainable future and more places for all Oregonians to call home.

Thank you, again, for your leadership on this difficult challenge facing us all. We look forward to partnering with you on solutions for the benefit of everyone in our state.



The Members of Partners for Affordable Housing

- AFL-CIO Ashley & Vance Engineering Bend Chamber* Bend Police Association Bend Redmond Habitat for Humanity Bend YIMBY* Bethlehem Inn Bliss Sequoia Insurance and Risk Advisors BUILD, LLC CASA of Central Oregon Cascades East Association of REALTORS* Central Oregon Builders Association* Habitat for Humanity of La Pine Sunriver Sisters Habitat for Humanity
- Envision Bend JD Fulwiler & Co. Insurance Katherine Austin Architect Mountain View Community Development Northwest Housing Alternatives Open Concept Architecture Oregon Nurses Association Pinnacle Architecture R&H Construction Roost Development RootedHomes* Thistle and Nest W.B.R. We Black Radio, LLC

* Indicates coalition steering committee member