

Submitter: Emily Cain

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB49

I'm a 34 year old software developer in Southeast Portland and I support SB 49 because I believe people at all income levels should be able to afford a decent place to live in this city. I see my friends who make less than me doing just as important of work who are unable to afford to live near where they work, or who must live with several roommates in a way that makes it hard to put down roots or start a family. I also see the alarming number of our neighbors who are not able to afford a permanent place to live at all, and I know that housing shortages are the #1 cause of cities with large homeless rates, not any moral failing in the people who can't afford a place to call home. I don't want people with higher-paying jobs like mine to be the only ones who can afford to call Portland home; that sounds like a very boring city to live in.

In particular, I support measures to reduce bureaucratic obstacles and red tape that are stopping us from building enough housing, whether that's historic districts being weaponized against new construction, density requirements causing perverse incentives that slow construction, or any other factor that means developers who want to build or expand housing must jump through endless hoops and risk losing their money if things fall through. We need to make it much easier to build enough homes for Portland residents, and I believe we can do that while still providing high-quality, safe, affordable homes if we can address some of these obstacles. The housing shortage is a complex problem and we need all the resources we can get to move closer to a Portland where there are enough homes for everyone.