

Chair Pham, Vice chair Anderson and Members of the Senate Housing Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of SB 49-1.

My name is Debbie Kitchin, I live in NE Portland and have owned a small remodeling business for over 30 years. But today I am here in support as a mom and concerned community member.

My kids and their spouses are in their late 30s. They have good jobs including as teachers, working in non-profits or in government jobs. But they and many of their generation struggle to afford housing. Our employees, who earn wages well above average as skilled trades workers, experience a great deal of stress and insecurity from housing costs. Our young people, our families, our essential workers cannot afford housing. We are living through a crisis in housing supply and it is affecting people throughout our state, at all ages and stages of life. Having adequate and affordable housing is a fundamental building block to creating a better life.

I join Portland: Neighbors Welcome in supporting the -1 Amendment of Senate Bill 49, the Housing Production Accelerator, which works to reduce regulatory burdens to help build more housing across the state.

Oregon needs lawmakers to clear away remaining barriers to building the types of housing that will strengthen our communities and create housing security for all Oregonians. This bill removes regulatory hurdles that are slowing housing production, which adds to the cost.

Thank you for considering my comments and allowing this opportunity for public input.