

Submitter: Leland Scantlebury

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB49

Dear Chair Pham and Members of the Senate Housing Committee,

My name is Leland Scantlebury and I live in the North Tabor neighborhood with my wife. I join Portland: Neighbors Welcome in supporting the -1 Amendment of Senate Bill 49, the Housing Production Accelerator, which works to reduce regulatory burden to help build more housing across the state. This bill will help people live near jobs that invest in their community, provide greater opportunity for jurisdictions to responsibly pursue Inclusionary Zoning, allow more people to stay in their communities as they age, and make use of vacant lots to help neighborhoods be vibrant. Without meaningful action, Portland risks becoming inaccessible to countless people who want to contribute to and enjoy the city, potentially exacerbating the affordability crisis and homelessness.

SB 49-1 addresses crucial regulatory barriers that currently limit housing production and contribute significantly to rising housing costs. By removing unnecessary minimum density requirements, applying sensible and uniform zoning standards, streamlining infrastructure analyses, and broadening inclusionary zoning options, this bill offers practical and effective measures to spur housing development.

As someone who treasures Portland's bike-friendly streets, diverse music, arts, and culinary scenes, I want the city to remain a welcoming place for all who wish to live here. To do this, we must ensure that housing remains attainable and accessible to a broad range of people. I feel lucky to live in a city that people move to not for economic reasons, but instead for cultural and political ones. Without proactive policies like SB 49-1, we risk further displacement, increased homelessness, and the loss of the very elements that make Portland special.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 49-1 to help protect and nurture the growth of our community for all current and future residents. Thank you.