



Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Chair Senator Khanh Pham
Vice-Chair Senator Dick Anderson
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

March 14, 2025

Re: Support for SB 974 - Reduces the time under which a city or county must decide on land use application for housing units

Dear Chair Senator Pham and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

Our coalition, [Partners for Affordable Housing](#), is writing today to express our support for Senate Bill 974. A lack of housing and soaring costs are hurting families and harming our economic prosperity throughout Central Oregon. Updating policies to reduce the time it takes to get housing units approved by local governments will lead to an increase in both housing production and affordability.

Partners for Affordable Housing coalition members throughout Central Oregon 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 in our region. Supporting solutions like SB 974 - optimizing the housing production approval process - is a core mission of our organization. We are grateful to senators Anderson, Jama and Broadman for bringing forward this bill.

We specifically support the passage of SB 974 in order to:

- Reduce the time it takes to bring housing units online from land use to planning to engineering to construction to move-in.
- Reduce the prohibitive costs incurred by lengthy approval processes, which are then passed on to homeowners and renters.
- Improve affordability as supply is available more quickly to meet demand.
- Increase production in order to provide more homeownership and rental opportunities.
- Eliminate barriers to development.
- Draw down the housing deficit of hundreds of thousands of units.

We also explicitly support the -1 Amendment to the bill introduced by Senator Anderson, which would also require engineering processes to be completed within 120 days. Currently jurisdictions, including many in Central Oregon, have no clock to ensure timely processing of applications. Ensuring housing applications are moving with deliberate speed is critical to lowering building costs and increasing supply. We encourage the inclusion of this amendment in the final bill.

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.

Signed,
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