



May 7, 2025

House Committee on Housing & Homelessness
Oregon State Capitol 900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Opposition for SB 974

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Lake Oswego and the City Council, I am writing in **opposition of SB 974**.

First and foremost, **the City of Lake Oswego urges the Legislature to prioritize the effective implementation of existing housing legislation (HB 2001, HB 2003, SB 1537, and Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities) before enacting further mandates.** The City of Lake Oswego, along with cities across the state, is focused on the implementation of previously passed housing legislation. We ask the Legislature to allow cities to fully implement these regulations and live the impact before adding more. Housing production is a top concern for all communities throughout Oregon, including Lake Oswego.

As previously stated, we support the goal of accelerating housing production through streamlined development processes, but we strongly oppose the shot-clocks dictated by the State. SB 974 will ultimately impede the housing production goal by introducing numerous complications and challenges that increase costs and cause delays for developers, residents, and cities. For a process that requires clear and objective requirements, SB 974 as currently written adds confusion where cooperation is the most important in delivering projects that are the best for communities.

Engineering reviews are critical for ensuring sound development. Forcing expedited decisions could lead to either hasty approvals or preemptive denials, both of which negatively impact developers and strain relationships between cities and the development community. SB 974 has not been developed in coordination with local jurisdictions that live in the permitting process and implement housing programs on a daily basis in Oregon.

The City appreciates your consideration and **urges opposition to SB 974 as presented**. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,

Mayor Joe Buck