

February 10, 2026

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Senate committee on Labor and Business,

I am writing to urge support for SB 1566. Our state is facing an affordable and attainable housing crisis as housing prices climb year over year, pricing out many Oregonians.

While helping to develop affordable and middle housing is not a typical municipal obligation, the cost of developing new housing is such that it simply does not pencil out for developers to build the types of housing so many of our communities need. It is clear that local governments must get involved if they intend for their communities to have the housing stock needed to power their economies, universities, and K-12 schools.

Here in Ashland, we are taking a proactive approach and have started to implement our housing production strategy. But future projects, some on the near horizon, will require the City of Ashland to be a direct partner to be financially viable.

However, if the City's participation triggers prevailing wage requirements, the contributions by the City to the projects will be outpaced by the additional costs brought on by current prevailing wage regulations.

SB 1566 is a common sense approach that will enable local governments to take the active role in developing new housing that the housing crisis requires of us.

Thank you for considering my comments and the positive impact this legislation will have on local governments that are doing their best to address the housing crisis.

Sincerely,



Tonya Graham  
Mayor

**CITY COUNCIL**

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