



CITY COUNCIL

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March 15, 2021

Chair Kayse Jama
Vice-Chair Dennis Linthicum
Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Linthicum and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing on behalf of the Salem City Council in support of SB 8, which would encourage the development of affordable housing by allowing it more broadly in cities across Oregon.

SB 8 would specifically require local governments to allow affordable housing on property that is owned by a public body or religious corporation and zoned for commercial uses. It would also allow affordable housing to be developed at increased densities.

The City of Salem, like other communities across Oregon, is facing a housing crisis. The need for more affordable housing is acute, particularly for housing that is income-restricted over the long term. SB 8 speaks to housing that would be affordable for at least 60 years to families with incomes of 80 percent of the area median income. In the Salem area, roughly half of the new households expected by 2035 are projected to need that level – or a deeper level – of housing affordability, according to the 2015 Salem Housing Needs Analysis. SB 8 would make it easier for this type of affordable housing to be developed.

Given our current and future housing needs, the City of Salem supports legislation to “create more affordable housing,” and provides “local governments additional funding for affordable housing and incentives for private sector participation in affordable housing.”

The City of Salem therefore requests your support for SB 8.

Sincerely,

Chuck Bennett
Mayor

cc: Salem Legislative Delegation

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Women, minorities, and disabled are encouraged to apply•ADA Accommodations will be provided upon request