



March 19, 2013

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2890  
Committee on House Human Services and Housing Committee  
Submitted by: Jesse Beason, Proud Ground

Chair Tomei, Vice-Chair Gomberg, Vice-Chair Olsen, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Proud Ground, I submit this written testimony in support of House Bill 2890. This bill repeals the prohibition on inclusive housing & restores local control to planning jurisdictions.

Proud Ground serves Washington, Multnomah and Clackamas counties, helping stable, hard-working families purchase, maintain and succeed in their first home. In thirteen years we have helped more than 245 families become homeowners and we maintain the permanent affordability of 215 homes in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties. But we know that the need is far greater than the current tools our local communities have. Put simply, homeownership is increasingly out of reach to hardworking stable families with good jobs, but no path to the long-term stability that studies show homeownership provides.

Despite the economic downturn, the median home price in our region is still \$80,000 more than when Proud Ground began in 1999. The median market-rate home in the metropolitan area costs \$220,000—affordable for a first-time homebuyer with an annual household income of about \$63,500. But what about stable households earning less than \$64,000 per year? What about school teachers, police officers, nurses – who earn far less than that? What hope would there be for Christin, a single mom earning \$41,000 a year, to own a home? When Christin first found Proud Ground, she lived in public housing with her two sons. Now she has a good, steady job and a home of her own, yet even in today's market she could not afford to buy on the open market.

Luckily, HB 2890 offers solutions that we know could work for the local communities who are interested. HB 2890 would allow inclusive housing policies to create opportunities for hardworking families priced out of the market. As studies exemplify, repealing the prohibition and restoring local control would give communities an option to increase opportunity and mobility in housing market for all residents, without adversely affecting the marketplace.

In Oregon, we've worked together to build communities that sustain us. This means supporting our history of ingenuity, innovation and independence. This independence is felt in local decision-making and local solutions that tackle statewide issues and goals. House Bill 2890 helps ensure our communities continue to thrive and open doors for all Oregonians with that independent spirit that is uniquely Oregon.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this important bill.

*Dreams Start Here.*

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