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Testimony in Support of House Bill 2564
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Speaker of the House Tina Kotek
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2564.

This bill is a simple change to state law. Passage of this bill will provide local governments with an important tool to help them make sure there is more affordable housing in their communities. Many cities and counties in Oregon are working hard to ensure the housing stock in their communities matches the needs of residents. However, stagnant incomes and the rising cost of living have caused many communities to lack enough affordable housing to meet the needs of their most vulnerable neighbors. Between 2007 and 2011, a quarter of Oregonians were extremely rent burdened and paid more than half of their income on housing related costs. For more information on rent burden in Oregon communities please visit the following [link](#).

While House Bill 2564 will not solve this problem on its own, it will provide local governments with one more tool they need to help low-income Oregonians access affordable housing.

In 1999, when the Legislature approved this preemption, much of the debate in committee centered on the role of government in solving the issue of affordable housing. Groups testifying in support of the preemption said that government could not solve the problem. I don't believe it's an either/or proposition. We should not give up on important and difficult problems, but face them head on. Local governments and housing developers have a shared responsibility to work together to solve this problem.

Inclusionary zoning is an important and needed tool. I encourage this committee to support House Bill 2564. This bill will help local governments address the affordable housing needs in their communities and support a path to stability and prosperity for more Oregonians.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.