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## **Lift the Ban on Inclusionary Zoning – Restore Local Control (HB 2564A)**

Dear Chair Gelser and members of the Human Services and Early Childhood Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for HB 2564A, which would lift the statewide ban on inclusionary zoning. I represent Oregon Opportunity Network, the statewide association of affordable housing and community development organizations. Our members work across the continuum from homelessness to homeownership, and provide housing and economic opportunity for working families, people with disabilities, seniors and others struggling to meet their needs in communities throughout Oregon.

Too many Oregonians are unable to find reasonably priced housing in safe, healthy neighborhoods. Everyone should have access to good schools, transportation options, and housing they can afford. Yet cities and counties in Oregon currently lack local authority to fully address the housing needs of their communities. Oregon Opportunity network has joined many partners and allies in a statewide coalition to give local jurisdictions the option to use inclusionary zoning as a tool for housing opportunity.

HB 2564A would not mandate anything. It would simply allow communities to choose whether or not to create an inclusionary zoning policy as one tool for the development of affordable housing in their community.

Our members know that not every community will choose to use inclusionary zoning, and that if used, it will look different in each community. And, as expert housing developers our members understand it is not a tool that will solve Oregon's entire affordable housing crisis. However, we are united in believing that that local communities should have the option to use inclusionary zoning, and that Oregon should not continue to be one of only two states in the country that ban this basic tool for housing opportunity. Lifting the ban on inclusionary zoning is a priority issue for our statewide network, and we urge you to support this bill. Thank you again for listening to our testimony, and for your service to Oregon.

Sincerely,

Ruth Adkins  
Policy Director