



Bill Hall
County Commissioner

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Testimony in Support of HB 4001

Chair Gelser, Members of the Committee:

My name is Bill Hall. I'm chair of the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, First Vice President of the Association of Oregon Counties, and I am here to encourage you to support Senate Bill 1533.

As you know, Oregon and Texas are the only states that do not allow local communities to use this tool to create affordable housing. I am now in my twelfth year as a commissioner, and the longer I serve, the more convinced I am of the truth of this maxim: the best government, the most responsive government, is closest to the people.

Last year, the AOC Legislative Committee supported the I-Z measure for two reasons: first, our acknowledgement of the depth of the housing crisis; second, our core belief in local control. If local governments do not use this tool with wisdom and restraint, they will be held accountable in many ways. Developers will not build in a community if it is not economically viable to do so. If county commissioners, mayors and city councilors do not make wise choices that help lead us out of this crisis, the voters who put them there will hold them accountable as well. I want to encourage you to trust the wisdom of the people we all serve, and who elect us to the offices we hold. Thank you.

