



January 29, 2016

Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

Re: Support for SB 1533

Dear Committee Members:

AIA Oregon supports Senate Bill 1533.

The AIA recognizes that planning and design that integrates transportation, housing, and land use policies at the neighborhood, community, and regional scales are prerequisites to the creation of safe, attractive, walkable, and sustainable communities. The AIA supports governmental policies, programs, and incentives that promote well designed communities and maximize public participation in an inclusive community planning process.

Architects strive to deliver well-designed buildings which contribute to healthy safe communities. We observe that diversity, or alleviating concentrations of economic disparities, is one contributing factor to healthy, safe communities. It is the role of architects to reconcile community and private interests to truly achieve 'good design'. If communities wish to see greater diversity in their housing mix, land-use policies such as inclusionary zoning provides one important tool, through governing agencies, to reflect those priorities.

The AIA also believes that access to housing is a fundamental right and supports governmental programs that help the design, construction, renovation and rehabilitation of safe, healthy, and sustainable housing to be within the means of all Americans.

Because of the current shortfall in supply to meet Oregonian demands for affordable housing, AIA Oregon will join with others focused on the quality of our built environment in support of efforts that identify new ways to advance affordable housing projects.

Therefore, AIA Oregon supports the use of collaborative changes to statutory provisions that increase affordable housing by allowing local governments the flexibility to use zoning tools for new development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alene Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light gray rectangular background.

Alene Davis, AIA
President, AIA Oregon