

2016-01-29

Chair Gelser and members of the committee:

I am Ann M Blaker of Bienestar from Hillsboro. I am writing to ask you to support allowing cities to use inclusionary zoning as a local housing solution.

I support SB1533 which would lift the ban on inclusionary zoning. The housing crisis is worsening with people not being able to live near their jobs as demand increases in our attractive, growing communities. Lifting this ban would allow the use of inclusionary zoning as an important tool, and leave the judgement about its use to local communities. This facilitates local solutions addressing local circumstances. Senate Bill 1533 requires local jurisdictions using inclusionary zoning to provide incentives to mitigate loss in profit, addressing the concerns of builders and developers.

Inclusionary zoning can help increase housing opportunity by providing cities with an important tool to create more affordable units and diverse communities.

We must act now to increase the number of affordable units, and inclusionary zoning is an important local solution that Oregon should allow. I hope that you will support these measures, and I thank you for your service.

Sincerely,
Ann M Blaker