



January 31, 2016

Senate Workforce and General Government Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Inclusionary Zoning

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee;

The purpose of this letter is to express the support for SB 1533 shared by Habitat for Humanity of Oregon and the 30 Oregon Habitat for Humanity affiliates we serve.

In rural and urban communities throughout our state, families are struggling to find an affordable place to live. As affordable homeownership developers, Habitat for Humanity affiliates have seen a disconcerting increase in the number of qualified applicants coming to us for help. At the same time, land prices are rising throughout Oregon.

By promoting local municipalities' opportunity to regulate and plan for inclusive housing, SB 1533 provides much-needed flexibility to address a shortage of available housing that is reaching crisis proportions.

We believe it's appropriate to allow local communities determine the parameters around their own inclusionary housing programs. Passing SB 1533 will lift the statewide ban on inclusionary zoning, paving the way for important community discussions on how best to maximize the construction of new affordable housing units

Thank you for your dedication to improving the communities we all share.

With tremendous respect,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shannon Vilhauer".

Shannon Vilhauer, Executive Director

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