

January 30, 2016

Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee
900 Court Street NE, hR C
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 1533

Dear Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you and the committee to urge support for SB 1533 which provides local governments with the authority to enact “inclusionary zoning” as one means of encouraging a supply of affordable housing – a very serious statewide challenge.

As a board member of the Portland Housing Center, a 25-year-old non-profit whose mission is to promote homeownership and affordable housing in the metropolitan area, I have worked daily to volunteer my time and effort to address the shortage of at least 50,000 such units in Portland alone.

This bill is not a cure-all and not the only action needed in the quest for affordable units; however, it is a tool not otherwise available in Oregon and one which can make a difference. With the flexibility offered by the proposal, communities can design to their market conditions and, in most cases, can do so in collaboration with home builders, contractors and developers.

Having served as Executive Director of the Portland Development Commission and Community Development Director for the City of Beaverton, I have direct experience with both the urban and suburban dimensions of the need for affordable housing. The availability of this tool will have a meaningful impact and effect on one of Oregon’s most-serious, statewide problems.

I encourage your support of SB 1533.

Thanks very much,

Don Mazziotti