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TO: Chair Gelser
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

FR: The Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: **Support for SB 1533 and Efforts to Alleviate Oregon's Housing Crisis**

February 1, 2016

The Oregon AFL-CIO, representing over 300,000 working Oregonians, is a voice for all workers in the legislative process. As we consider our role as a worker advocate, we cannot overlook the significant and increasing barriers that workers across the state face as they look for stable housing solutions for themselves and their families.

Too many Oregonians are struggling to find safe, affordable, and accessible housing anywhere near where they work, which is a difficulty that impacts all aspects of a workers' day and life. The lack of access to affordable housing has also left local governments across the state looking for solutions with very few tools at their disposal.

Oregon is currently only one of two states that bans local governments from using Inclusionary Zoning, only heightening the difficulty to find stable housing for working families across the state. While lifting the ban on Inclusionary Zoning is an important step this Legislature can take, it is one of many solutions that will be required to truly alleviate the housing burden facing Oregon workers today. We strongly urge the 2016 Oregon Legislature to take swift action and enable local governments to find tools that suit their unique housing crises and create housing opportunities for workers in their respective communities.

The Oregon AFL-CIO strongly urges your support for SB 1533 and the efforts to help alleviate the states' housing crisis.