



February 1, 2016

Chair Sara Gelser  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Sarah Gelser and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the City of Eugene in support of SB 1533.

As a City Councilor of Eugene for the past 11 years, I have watched our community struggle through the recession and work towards recovery and prosperity for everyone. Eugene residents are both deeply concerned and deeply frustrated by the lack of housing opportunities. We know that stable access to decent, safe, and affordable housing is the cornerstone for educational achievement, health, and economic prosperity. Unfortunately, our housing challenges are fundamental barriers to achieving our cities', counties', and state's goals in these areas.

The City of Eugene has been proud to work in partnership with the legislature, Oregon Housing and Community Services, Lane County, and nonprofit partners to create thousands of housing units and maintain support for critical human services. Eugene has taken advantage of other development tools enabled by the state including system development charge waivers, property tax exemptions for affordable housing, and property tax exemptions for multifamily housing.

The City of Eugene would also like to have the chance to consider how inclusionary zoning could help create more affordable rental and homeownership opportunities in our community. Eugene does not have a specific plan for implementing inclusionary zoning and would work closely with a range of community stakeholders if we were to utilize this policy.

Eugene wants to be part of the solution but we need more tools and resources to expand housing opportunities particularly for low and moderate-income residents.

Sincerely,

Chris Pryor  
Eugene City Council, Ward 8