



Oregon  
Environmental  
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It's Your Oregon

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**Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
HB 4001  
Angela Crowley-Koch, Legislative Director**

**February 1, 2016**

Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

**OEC supports HB 4001: Lift the ban on inclusionary zoning – Expand housing options for all Oregonians and protect tenants**

Oregon faces a housing crisis that demands action. Across the state, too many Oregonians struggle to find housing they can afford in safe and healthy neighborhoods.

Inclusionary zoning (IZ) is a basic tool used by local governments across the United States to help create vibrant communities with housing options for everyone. These options make Oregon a healthier place to live and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Unfortunately, IZ is not a tool that is available in Oregon due to a statewide ban established in 1999. Oregon and Texas are the only states with an IZ ban on the books. It's time we changed that. We support HB 4001 because it would restore local control to governments in Oregon by repealing the statewide ban on IZ.

Additionally, we believe that tenants deserve additional protections against no-cause evictions and unreasonable rent increases. HB 4001 provides some much needed relief for workers and families that are on the front lines of the housing crisis in Oregon.

Finally, for people experiencing homelessness, we support allowing local governments in Oregon more flexibility when attempting to provide temporary housing units. However, we believe that waivers for building codes, zoning, and other regulations designed to protect tenants in permanent housing units should remain firmly in place.

**We believe that all Oregonians have the right to a safe, healthy, and affordable home.**