



CASCADIA ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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February 1, 2016

Dear Chair Gelsler and Members of the Human Services and Early Childhood Committee:

Cascadia is an affordable housing and mental health service provider and we are very concerned about the alarming number of people with mental health issues that cannot find decent affordable housing. Many cities in Oregon are experiencing the same low vacancy rates (our average vacancy is now down to 2-3%) and extreme shortage of affordable housing units. The senate must act on supporting this very important measure for the health of our state.

We know that a stable, safe place to call home is the key to success. We know the policy and resource strategies that can put us back on track to meeting the housing needs of the most vulnerable Oregonians.

We urge you to take bold action this session for housing opportunity, including immediate adoption of SB 1533. In addition to lifting the ban on Inclusionary Zoning and enacting emergency renter protection, we also urge the Legislature to invest in housing development, preservation, and homelessness prevention.

Support for SB 1533 is diverse and statewide: 49 organizations including labor, environment, social justice, housing groups and cities across Oregon are united. It's time to restore to local governments the option of using this proven tool to address local housing needs.

SB 1533 includes reasonable sideboards negotiated with home builders, like a limitation (ceiling) on housing that is set aside as well as a menu of incentives and benefits.

IZ is a basic planning tool used in 500 jurisdictions across the country to ensure new developments include workforce housing options for low and moderate income households. This tool can be used by cities and counties as one important tool to address local housing problems using local solutions.

Thank you very much for your consideration of SB 1533, and for all your work on behalf of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Margaret Jonsson".

Margaret Jonsson

Senior Director, Housing Development & Management

Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

HEALING, HOMES, HOPE