



January 27, 2016

Senator Sara Gelser
900 Court St NE, S-405
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Sara Gelser:

The City Council of the City of Hood River, Oregon would like to go on record expressing its unanimous support for SB 1533, an Inclusionary Zoning bill.

Developing a supply of affordable, workforce housing for the City of Hood River is at the top of the City's list of goals. Lifting the statewide ban on inclusionary zoning and making it an option for local communities will assist in this effort.

In Hood River the lack of affordable housing has been noted by local business leaders as a major obstacle to economic growth. In 2015 the City sponsored a buildable lands inventory and housing needs analysis. Among the significant findings were that 40 percent of Hood River renters are paying more than 30 percent of their gross income on housing. Furthermore the ratio of median owner-occupied housing to median household income has risen from 4.5 times median income in 2000 to 6.4 times median income in 2013.

For these reasons the City Council respectfully requests passage of Senate Bill 1533 to provide inclusionary zoning as a policy tool that cities can use to increase the production of affordable housing.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Blackburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul Blackburn, Mayor