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To:

Ways and Means, Natural Resources Committee

Salem, OR

Dear members of the committee:

I strongly support HB2007, and especially with the -6 amendments.

People throughout Oregon desperately need more housing options, and costs are rising because our population is increasing, and the rate of housing construction is far from keeping up. This bill helps achieve that goal in several ways, including:

- Prioritizes permits for affordable housing,
- Allows accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and duplexes in single-family neighborhoods,
- Allows religious institutions to use their property to develop affordable housing, and
- Brings more transparency in the historic designation process and makes sure there is adequate public participation in the formation of such districts.

We should be providing housing options for Oregonians of all incomes in communities where people have easy access to their work, school, shopping, healthcare, public amenities, and public transit.

Legalizing ADUs and duplexes in our neighborhoods is a great way to add smaller homes that are compatible with existing neighborhoods. HB 2007 takes some important steps to help meet Oregon's housing challenges while ensuring more people have access to the opportunities in these "connected" communities.

I especially want to voice my support for provisions that correct loopholes in our state's laws. (Current law allows private groups of landowners to bypass City Hall, and ask the National Park Service to declare their entire neighborhood a historic site).

We cannot let some neighborhoods insulate themselves from diverse and affordable housing types by mis-using the National Historic District designation for the sole, and admitted, purpose of preventing infill and redevelopment. The bill would close that unintended loophole in state law, while still allowing the formation of historic districts.

I thank you for your support of this much-needed bill.

Sincerely,

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Doug Klotz