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**Testimony on HB 2007
June 22, 2017**

AARP is pleased to support HB 2007, a bill that seeks to expand housing options in Oregon by increasing the supply of affordable and market rate housing in our communities.

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan social welfare organization with a nationwide membership of nearly 38 million and 500,000 in Oregon. We work to improve quality of life for all as we age, strengthen our communities, and fight for the issues that matter to Oregon families. An important aspect of our work in Oregon is advocating for livable and age-friendly communities, including expanding housing options and ensuring access to affordable, safe, secure, and accessible homes for Oregonians of all ages and abilities.

AARP research tells us that 90% of people 65 and older want to remain in their homes and communities as they get older. However, the unprecedented housing crisis in our state is jeopardizing that dream for many older Oregonians. A high percentage of older Oregonians, both renters and homeowners, are housing cost burdened and this burden increases with age. In addition, for older adults and persons with disabilities looking to own or rent a home, there are just not enough affordable or market rate options that would allow them to downsize yet stay in their neighborhoods. For older adults, loss of a home can mean loss of community ties, displacement, and even premature, unnecessary and costly institutionalization on tax-payer dollars.

AARP believes that HB 2007 is a good step towards addressing the current housing crisis particularly as it relates to expanding much needed affordable and market rate housing in our communities. By prioritizing review of housing developments containing affordable housing units and enabling more missing middle type housing HB 2007 will expand housing opportunity for people of all ages and enable older adults to successfully age in place.

On behalf of over half million AARP members ages 50+ statewide, we urge you to support HB 2007.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to make our region an age-friendly and livable place for people of all ages and abilities.

AARP
Real Possibilities