

Dear Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing,

I strongly support HB 2001. Oregon's cities urgently need to allow more and denser housing of all types--especially types smaller and less expensive than most single-family homes. This will help to not only provide all Oregon's residents with more affordable places to live, but also protect our natural environment. Increased housing density means less destructive sprawl, less driving, less traffic congestion, and lower carbon emissions. It also helps to create an adequate tax base to pay for long-term infrastructure maintenance, which low-density areas cannot support without huge subsidies.

Unfortunately, we can't wait for individual cities to act on their own. NIMBY homeowners intensely pressure local governments to retain overly restrictive exclusionary zoning rules, without regard to the dire negative externalities and future harms from those rules. We need Oregon's state government to step in and serve the broader public good by limiting local exclusionary zoning, and HB 2001 does just that. In fact, if there's any politically feasible way to make HB 2001 even stronger and more sweeping, please do so.

Best wishes,  
Leon Porter  
1822 NE Wasco St.  
Portland OR 97232