



House Committee on Housing and Human Services  
Re: HB 2001 Relating to Housing

February 11, 2019

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair Noble, Vice-Chair Sanchez and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2001. My name is Jenny Lee, and I'm the Advocacy Director for Building Power for Communities of Color, a nonprofit dedicated to policy advocacy for communities of color that will help us achieve a more equitable Oregon.

Building Power for Communities of Color is coordinating the 2019 Racial Equity Legislative Report, which will analyze racial equity outcomes for the 2019 Oregon Legislature. This report will be used as an educational and advocacy tool to pass policies and make investments that address the priorities of communities of color. The report also identifies legislation, including HB 2001, that has the potential to meaningfully improve opportunities for communities of color for inclusion.

HB 2001 will help increase housing options in every neighborhood across the state. By increasing housing options, families will have more access to jobs, educational opportunities, and other amenities. The "middle housing" encouraged by this bill can meet the needs of a variety of family sizes. In addition to providing homes for smaller families, options such as duplexes and accessory dwelling units can function as housing for intergenerational and extended families.

Local jurisdictions must work to ensure that housing strategies work to address the harmful legacy of exclusionary policies that continue to shape Oregon's housing landscape. Single-family zoning has been used to exclude families of color through redlining. These policies resulted in enduring racial homeownership and wealth gaps. In addition to providing more affordable rental options in a variety of neighborhoods, the kind of housing encouraged by HB 2001 could increase the number of homes available for purchase for families starting out, especially when paired with homeownership tools such as down payment assistance and community land trusts.

Addressing zoning that has prevented equitable opportunity for communities of color is one piece of the solution to Oregon's affordable housing crisis, and we encourage you to take action by supporting this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2001.

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