

Monday, February 11th, 2019

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

To: Oregon House Committee on Human Services & Housing

Re: HB 2001

Dear Members of the Oregon House Committee on Human Services & Housing:

WE CAN (Walkable Eugene Citizens Advisory Network) supports HB 2001. Through this bill, Oregon can take meaningful action to address the housing shortage in Oregon, and can require every city in Oregon to do its part to make sure all Oregonians can find housing that meets their needs and budget.

Like many cities in Oregon and across the nation, Eugene is not constructing enough housing to meet the demand. Eugene has made it difficult to construct the right types of housing to meet the needs of our citizens. Almost 90% of residentially zoned land in Eugene is devoted to detached single-family housing, despite the fact that only about a quarter of our households are families with children. More compact housing types, such as duplexes, triplexes, quads, and cottage clusters provide options for residents who don't need or want larger homes or larger yards, but these cannot be built in most parts of the city.

Oregon's cities have a responsibility to ensuring housing for all, while also protecting the natural areas, farms and forested lands that make Oregon such an amazing state to live in. While local jurisdictions deserve a chance to determine the best way to meet their housing needs within reasonable state guidelines, it has become clear that Eugene's local political leaders are not willing to address this crisis in a timely fashion. Eugene is one of the largest cities in Oregon, but our housing supply continues to lag behind demand, prices make housing less affordable with each passing year, and the city government has yet to take tangible action to address the root causes of this problem.

In implementing SB 1051, Eugene has used technicalities and delays to maintain unreasonable regulations related to ADUs as long as possible. We therefore appreciate the additional clarity in HB 2001 concerning reasonable siting and design for ADUs, as well as the clear timelines and support for implementation of HB 2001.

Before passing HB 2001, we recommend that the legislature preemptively look for potential loopholes that could undermine the intent of the bill. For example, specific guidelines as to whether lot size minimums and density maximums can be used to prohibit duplexes would be useful in Eugene.

Thank you again for your attention to ensuring that Oregonians can choose the neighborhood they want to live in, and find housing that meets their needs, even if that is neither a detached single family home nor a conventional apartment.

Sincerely,

Eliza Kashinsky on behalf of
WE CAN (Walkable Eugene Citizens Advisory Network)

Founded in 2015, WE CAN (Walkable Eugene Citizens Advisory Network) is an ad hoc group of homeowners, renters, and property owners who support successful, diverse, and community-supported walkable 20-minute neighborhoods in Eugene, and who believe that all Eugene residents should have choices for housing that fit their lifestyle and budget.
www.wecaneugene.org