



# CITY OF GRESHAM

March 18, 2019

House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Se. NE, HR 50  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2001 -1

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee:

As stated in our testimony for the February 11, 2019 hearing, the City of Gresham has worked hard to successfully achieve both density and a wide array of housing options for our residents. Our preference is for HB 2001 to discern between communities that have done very little in this regard, and communities that can demonstrate success through their data, the latter retaining the most local control possible to continue their success. The -1 Amendment falls short of that ambition.

While our preference would still be for the legislation to discern between the two, at a minimum, the -1 Amendment misses an opportunity to achieve the goal of the legislation while retaining the benefit of local knowledge and nuance. Requiring that middle housing be allowed on every residential lot, with no nuance for the feasibility of that format on a lot-by-lot basis, would make it very difficult for local communities to accomplish the goal of expanding middle housing options while being responsive to the unique circumstances in each local neighborhood. As an alternative, requiring that middle housing be allowed in *every residential zone* instead of *every residential lot* would ensure its availability throughout a city while granting local government the ability to permit its construction in a way that intersects nicely with existing neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Eric Chambers  
Government Relations Director