

Dear Members of the House Committee on Housing,

I am writing in favor of HB 2655, to prohibit counties from establishing a minimum lot size greater than one acre for residential zoned land. As you well know, Oregon has a severe and growing housing affordability problem, especially in the Portland metro area, where I live. The most significant contributor to housing unaffordability is an excess of regulation on new home construction, which restricts the supply of housing and drives up prices via the principles of supply and demand. Minimum lot regulations in particular, aside from restricting housing supply, are a wasteful form of land use by artificially spreading people out in rural areas and requiring more driving time to conduct basic business. The proposed legislation establishes a limit of a one acre minimum lot size in rural areas and contains additional provisions on the preservation of historic homes, rules that are fully consistent with the character of rural areas to which they apply.

Please support HB 2655. Thank you for your consideration.

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