

Hello,

My name is Allen Hancock. I live in Eugene in Senate District 6.

In 1990 I was part of a group of adults that purchased a property in an R-1 zone of Eugene. Because the building on the property had been used as apartments for decades, we were able to continue using it for multi-family housing. The building, originally constructed for what was the Northwest Christian College, had six people living in five separate units when we bought it.

Over a number of years, we converted four of the kitchens into bedrooms. We now have ten bedrooms, a large, beautiful kitchen, living room, a guest room, and a large flourishing garden. For over thirty years our home has provided below market-rate housing to unrelated individuals and families in a desirable part of Eugene because we are able to live more efficiently. By sharing common spaces and utilities, people have been able to save money and increase their personal financial security. Many people have gone on to buy their own home with money saved by living together. Over the decades, adults and children—from newborn to retirees—have lived together successfully under the same roof.



The benefits of having unrelated individuals living together also benefit the community we live in. By adding to the housing supply without expanding the urban growth boundary, without building new sewers and roads, and without encroaching on farmland or undeveloped land, we have saved countless taxpayer dollars and conserved precious natural resources. Furthermore, the camaraderie of people living in our home together has enabled us to sponsor a neighborhood art project, serve as a plastics recycling collection site, and offer tours showcasing shared and sustainable living practices.

While we are fortunate that our home is grandfathered in as an exception to the local rules, many towns and cities restrict the number of unrelated individuals that can live together. These ordinances make it more difficult for people to save money on the rising cost of housing by sharing resources. The laws are outdated and reflect a time when the presumed ideal was the nuclear family. These ordinances can exclude low-income people from living in entire neighborhoods.

HB 2583 would enable unrelated people to live together without restriction. It will benefit individuals, the communities they live in, and the entire state.

I encourage you to vote in favor of HB 2583.

Thank you.

Allen Hancock
2244 Alder Street
Eugene, Oregon