



February 10, 2021

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Senator Kathleen Taylor, Co-Chair
Representative Jeff Reardon, Co-Chair
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony from the Housing Land Advocates on Senate Bill 5530

Dear Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding Senate Bill 5530, which appropriates funds for the 2021-23 Governor's Recommended Budget and Policy Option Packages (POPs) to support the work of the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). As a proponent for land use policy and planning choices that address Oregon's affordable housing needs and advance affordable, fair, and equitable housing outcomes, **Housing Land Advocates urges you to approve the base budget and POP 110 Housing Planning.** We also encourage your approval of the two climate adaptation packages, POP 111 and POP 112, and the equity package, POP 90, as these also provide opportunities for advancing affordable, fair, and equitable housing outcomes.

In your 2019 session, the Oregon Legislature responded aggressively to the state's affordable housing and homelessness crisis. In addition to appropriating funds for housing production and homeless services, you also harnessed the power of Oregon's land use planning system to support the development of needed housing through HB 2001 and HB 2003. **We thank you for these decisions.**

Many of us, including Housing Land Advocates, worked with talented DLCD housing staff and the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) to create implementing rules for local Housing Production Strategies and the integration of Middle Housing into single-family neighborhoods, per HB 2003 and 2001, respectively. We also advised DLCD on their evaluation of a prototype Regional Housing Needs Analysis. During the summer of 2020, our work occurred against a backdrop of intense advocacy for racial justice throughout the nation. The resulting rules adopted by LCDC break new ground in integrating fair, affordable, and equitable housing planning in the Oregon Land Use System. However, now the rollout shifts to the local level, and **DLCD's assistance is critically needed to support the implementation of HB 2001 and 2003 by local jurisdictions.** That is why we are writing to ask for your support of POP 110 Housing Planning.

Now is not the time to lose the momentum created by the hard work of the Department and the small army of local elected officials, planners, and advocates pushing for a more just housing system. Now is not the time to relegate fair housing, equity, and racial justice in housing to some future date. Now is the time to act and support POP 110 Housing Planning, for **POP 110 is, indeed, a civil rights matter** in the guise of land use planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on SB 5530. Housing Land Advocates recommends the Committee vote the bill out with a Do Pass recommendation.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Bragar, President
Housing Land Advocates

Cc (by e-mail):

HLA Board
Representative Julie Fahey
Senator Kayse Jama
House Speaker Kotek
Palmer Mason