



February 22, 2021

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

Submitted Electronically

Re: The Fair Housing Council of Oregon's Support of SB 5530

Dear Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and Subcommittee Members:

The Fair Housing Council of Oregon (FHCO) supports 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).

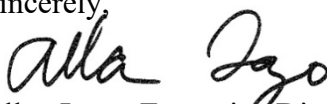
FHCO is a statewide civil rights organization whose mission is to eliminate housing discrimination through access to enforcement and education. Our agency is committed to efforts to promote justice, equity, and create more inclusive communities throughout the state of Oregon.

Throughout the past year, FHCO staff participated in the statewide rulemaking process for HB 2001 and HB 2003. These bills passed by the 2019 Legislature provide for the inclusion of middle housing types in residential zones throughout Oregon and initiated the Regional Housing Needs Analysis. The rulemaking process was skillfully guided by DLCD housing planning staff, and the Land Conservation and Development Commission adopted the ground-breaking rules in December 2020.

Efforts now turn to the implementation of HB 2001 and HB 2003, including technical assistance for local jurisdictions to implement these bills. These steps are important efforts that can open opportunities to equal access to housing throughout Oregon, and the resources requested by DLCD in SB 5530 and particularly in POP 110 to support the housing planning team are vital components in continuing this work.

We urge the Ways and Means Subcommittee to support and pass SB 5530 as it provides important resources for DLCD to assist jurisdictions through the state in their efforts to create equal access to housing.

Sincerely,


Allan Lazo, Executive Director

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