



SIERRA CLUB

OREGON CHAPTER

OPPOSE SB 1537 – Housing Cost Impact Statements

Testimony by Terry J. Harris, Sierra Club Oregon Chapter Legislative Committee
Senate Committee on Housing and Development - February 7, 2022

The Sierra Club Oregon Chapter submits this **testimony in OPPOSITION to SB 1576**, legislation proposed by the Oregon Homebuilders Association which would constitute a major expansion of “housing cost impact statements” in Oregon. Currently, detailed “housing cost impact statements” are required for rules and regulations promulgated by a number of state agencies. SB 1576 would expand the number of agencies required to file such statements, and it adds a number of required assessments that are badly conceived, extremely burdensome, and largely unnecessary.

It is certainly important to understand the costs and benefits of regulatory activity, and especially when it comes to issues of critical importance to Oregonians like affordable housing. But this expansive legislation is less about information, but more about crippling the ability of agencies to advance necessary rulemaking on climate, efficiency, safety, public health, wildfire preparation, and even affordability. There has been no collaboration or discussion with other stakeholders, no substantive vetting of the proposal and its consequences, and significantly, no community demand for it. We strongly urge that the Committee reject this ill-considered bill.

The Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club represents some 63,000 members and supporters as the state chapter of the oldest conservation organization in the United States.

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