

Submitter: Eli Spevak  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development  
Measure: SB1537

Dear Members of the Housing and Development Committee,

I am Eli Spevak, a resident of NE Portland. For over 25 years, I've been developing affordable and market rate housing as a developer and general contractor. Although testifying as an individual, I've dived deep into zoning and housing regulatory issues through my service on Portland's Planning & Sustainability Commission for the past 6 years.

I urge you to oppose SB1537.

Although I understand the idea behind this bill, the bureaucratic weight it would have on rule-making processes across 12 state agencies would be debilitating. Do we really need a stepped-up housing cost impact statement whenever the CCB wants to change how it licenses plumbers? Or when OHSU recommends rule changes for ladder safety?

I agree that we should be thoughtful about regulations that could increase the cost of housing and wary of regulations that constrain housing supply. In that vein, I've supported some past bills sponsored by the HBA, including SB458 from last session. But this one goes way too far - and would be paralyzing (and extremely expensive) for state agencies to implement.

We need to make government work, not pass laws that gum up the works.

I hope your committee will drop this bill quickly - and use your scarce time this legislative short session on other topics.

Thank you!  
- Eli

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