



February 7, 2022

Senator Jama, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Jama and members of the Committee,

The Renew Oregon coalition strongly opposes Senate Bill 1537 and urges all members to vote no on this legislation.

Providing healthy, affordable, and comfortable housing to all Oregonians is a goal many of us share. However, this legislation is not an honest or well-developed policy to reach that goal.

Whether a purposeful undermining of the state agencies and public servants tasked with keeping Oregonians safe and healthy or an inadvertent stymying, the result of this bill moving forward would be the same-- new, burdensome, ill-defined and expensive tasks placed on a long list of state agencies seemingly without solving any defined short-comings of the current process.

We hope in the discussion of this bill, there comes to light some engagement or consultation that has taken place with impacted stakeholders like racial justice advocates, low-income housing advocates, and land use advocates, among others. In consulting with our many partners, we've heard of no such process. Such a huge change to existing law demands this kind of engagement.

This legislation seems to only add burden without offering new solutions for making housing more affordable. Cost assessments are already built into most agency rulemaking processes. SB 1537 would have far-reaching, mostly negative implications for state action related to climate action, energy efficiency, wildfire prevention, reduction of energy burdens, and public health, among other issue areas.

We strongly urge you to vote no on SB 1537.

Sincerely,

Brad Reed, Renew Oregon
Campaign Manager

[Renew Oregon](#) is a clean energy advocacy [coalition](#) of businesses and workers, healthcare professionals and parents, farmers and ranchers, faith and community organizations, and individuals coming together to move our state away from polluting energy to a clean energy economy. We are working to create good-paying jobs for all Oregonians, protect air and water from pollution, and help families stay healthy.