



Support SB 1537 to Modernize Oregon's Housing Cost Impact

Oregon's housing experts have made clear that status quo solutions cannot help us make progress towards solving our housing crisis! Part of the solution needs to be increased transparency, accountability, good decision-making backed by data, and engagement by all parties involved in housing policy.

According to OHCS's Regional Housing Needs Interim Framework Report, Oregon has been dramatically under building housing for decades, which has [resulted in rising housing costs, more unhoused people, and fewer choices for individuals and families trying to make ends meet.](#)

The Joint Task Force on Addressing Barriers to Home Ownership for People of Color in Oregon also identified [lack of available housing stock, high cost of land, lack of new construction in rural areas, the high cost of developing a single-family parcel](#) in rural communities, as just some of the major barriers to homeownership for people of color.

It is time for our state to modernize the housing cost impact statement with an intentional approach to equity and workforce housing, so that we can make meaningful strides in solving our housing crisis and reducing barriers to home ownership.

The Housing Cost Impact Statement was put into law almost thirty years ago to ensure that agencies were analyzing potential impacts to housing and to make those impacts known to the public. The time is now to update this important law before we fall further behind and continue the practices of the past!

An updated Housing Impact Statement must:

- Be prepared by agencies passing rules that impact housing;
- Specifically examine possible costs to middle housing and workforce housing development;
- Analyze potential for displacement of communities of color and low income households;
- Be reviewed in the same manner as any other fiscal impact review, such as the small business impact statement or the general fiscal impact statement. Under current law, the housing cost impact statement is treated as a second-thought exercise.

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