

February 10, 2022

Committee On Housing and Development
Senator Kayse Jama, Chair
Senator Dick Anderson, Vice-Chair

RE: Testimony in Opposition to SB 1537

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

I am in opposition to SB 1537. I am retired after a career in city planning for the City of Gresham. At retirement I was Gresham's Planning Director.

For the past 15 months I have been a member of a Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) for rulemaking to update the Transportation Planning Rule conducted by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC). I have represented the Oregon American Planning Association (OAPA) on the RAC.

The rulemaking is intended to address past legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emission in Oregon's metropolitan areas and the Governor's executive orders on climate and equity through coordinated land use and transportation planning. When implemented by Cities and Counties the rulemaking will result in more Oregonians having the choice to live and do business where walking, biking and using transit are viable options to having to drive a car.

Rulemaking, the process where States board and commissions write the rules that define details and clarify how a statute or program will be carried out, is critical to realize Legislative and Executive intent. SB 1537 seems to seek to undercut those policies set out by legislature and the governor.

Although SB 1537 seems to suggest that its intent is to advance affordable housing, equity and the health and safety of Oregonians I feel that its provisions will instead maintain the status quo by making it problematic for the State to engage in the kind of thoughtful rulemaking that I have experienced with LCDC's current rulemaking.

There is a housing crisis in Oregon, and it is critical that efforts continue to increase housing availability, affordability, and choices for Oregonians across the state. The State taking action to preserve and increase the supply of affordable house, rental and ownership opportunities; to increase funding and technical assistance to help communities meet housing needs; and to promote housing stability and mitigating displacement are all critical responses that State should be doing. SB 1537 does none of these things but instead is a step backwards.

Please don't move SB 1537 forward.

Thank you for this opportunity to provided testimony..

Jonathan Harker, ACIP
Senate District 23