



DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

June 1, 2023

House Committee on Rules
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 3414 -14

My name is Karen Saxe and I work at DevNW, an affordable housing development and asset-building agency serving Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Marion, Polk and Clackamas Counties.

DevNW supports HB 3414 with the -14 amendments, which will help agencies like ours in responding to the housing crisis by removing common barriers, and accelerating and improving the efficiency of development.

As I mentioned, DevNW works across a seven county region that includes numerous jurisdictions. This gives us a unique understanding of the extent to which our housing crisis is not isolated to local jurisdictions; it is statewide, and we need statewide solutions to match.

The changes in this bill will give developers a greater level of predictability – across all jurisdictions – that we will get the variances (adjustments) we need to create new housing. Navigating unique and arcane land use and site design requirements in each location has led to a slow and cumbersome development process, hampering our ability to put units on the ground. The -14 amendments confirm that all housing is included, increase the number of variances allowed per development and clearly outline who can appeal a land use decision under this bill—all critically important for ensuring that the goals of this bill can and will be realized in communities across Oregon.

We support the Governor’s statewide approach to the entirety of the housing continuum. We see great potential in establishing the Housing Accountability and Production Office as a way to support both jurisdictions and developers to increase our housing supply.

We are grateful to and thank the Governor’s office, the Legislators and their staff and the various stakeholders who worked together to get to the -14 amendments. As a

devNW.org



212 Main Street
Springfield, OR 97477

P.O. Box 790
Corvallis, OR 97339

528 Cottage Street NE, Suite 304
Salem, OR 97301

421 High Street, Suite 110
Oregon City, OR 97045



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nonprofit affordable developer, we believe HB 3414 with the -14 amendments will have a meaningful and immediate impact on current projects and future developments. We urge your support of HB 3414 -14.

Sincerely,

Karen Saxe
Director of Policy, Advocacy and Strategic Relationships
DevNW