



Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

RE: In support of HB 2889

Chair Dexter, Vice Chairs Helfrich and Gamba, and members of the committee,

My name is Allan Lazo, I'm the executive director of the Fair Housing Council of Oregon. We are a private non-profit civil rights organization whose work is to end housing discrimination and ensure equal access to housing throughout Oregon. I also am a state Land Conservation and Development Commissioner and have been a member of the Department of Land Conservation and Development state housing rulemaking advisory committee and workgroups for the past three years.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 2889 this morning.

Nearly 50 years ago, statewide land use planning Goal 10 set out to provide for the housing needs of every Oregonian. But the current implementation of Goal 10 has failed to meet the housing needs of all Oregonians.

Every community in our state is faced with our housing affordability crisis. That means we have friends and neighbors sleeping outside every night. It also means we have teachers who can't find housing affordable to them and are sleeping in their cars. We have grocery stores and restaurants across this state that are closing or limiting their hours because they can't find staff that can afford to live in their communities.

At the core of what will make HB 2889 a success is to evolve Goal 10 into a system that brings together leading with production, improving on affordability, and increasing housing choice and access to opportunity for every Oregonian.

There are three fundamental changes that will ensure HB 2889 successfully fulfills the promise of true housing choice and access to opportunity for all in Oregon:

- Put in place the OHNA methodology as prescribed from HB 2003 and implemented in this bill;
- Resource the cities, counties, and state departments to implement this work; and,
- Build a system of accountability for removing barriers to production and meeting goals for housing choice.

These fundamental changes link the outcomes of much-needed production of housing with the also much-needed attention to ensuring that housing production serves every member of our communities.

Many people have been involved in this process for the past three years to build a system that works toward those critical outcomes, and I'm hopeful we continue to follow their lead and implement their recommendations in this effort.

**1221 SW Yamhill Street, Portland, Oregon 97205**



As you are working on moving this bill forward, you may hear a lot about many different needs and solutions to address our housing production crisis. And my answer to those solutions is yes, but all of those solutions don't need to be included in HB 2889 for this work to be successful.

I would urge you to consider as you listen to try to resolve what become individual interests, that what we are trying to do at the core is serve our collective interest in these six words of Oregon's land use system Goal 10: Meet the housing needs of every Oregonian.

In closing, the one critical thing HB 2889 does is envision a future where we do meet the housing needs of every person in our state, fulfilling that original promise of statewide land use planning Goal 10.

Why is it important for us to envision that future? Because if we can't envision that future, then we can't build that future or build toward that future.

Thank you, and I'm happy to answer any questions members of the committee may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allan Lazo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allan Lazo