

Good Am Madame Chairwomen, and committee members. My name is Denise LaBuda, a home owner in Bend, OR. I am here to speak in support of HB 2889.

HB 2899 offers Oregon a chance to create long-term structural change to accelerate housing production while improving affordability and choice.

HB 2889 has been a well thought through bill, and like all bills can be improved and we heard many good suggestions in the testimony this morning, and I am encouraged with the wide and diverse groups and individuals behind it today.

I believe that this bill needs to be written to change policy at both state and local level and give Oregonians a new way to calculate their housing needs more accurately.

I live in a wonderful part of Oregon without enough housing to meet peoples' varied needs. We are 1,000's of housing units behind and fully expect that our point in time houselessness count will also show an increase in the number of people living in our communities without a home when those results come out later this spring.

For me personally, without enough and a wide variety of housing stock, I found it hard in the last 4 years to hire marketing professionals making a living wage who spent months and months looking for a place to rent or buy in Bend that they could afford.

Also during my employment at the Council on Aging, our local area agency on aging, I witnessed a number of senior residents fall into houselessness. Some temporarily and for some this may be permanent given the lack of affordable and accessible housing stock. This is not a trend we want to see grow in our beloved state, but I am afraid the worst is yet to come for our senior population as it relates to housing without changes to policy at the state and local levels.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today in support of HB 2889.