

Submitter: Angelita Sanchez
On Behalf Of: Community Members
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB437

Chair Jama and members of the committee, Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Angelita Sanchez and I support this bill 100%. I urge the committee to support SB 437 as well.

Growing food is an environmental & social justice issue, but one that is not talked about enough. So let's talk about it.

We know that as the state looks to invest into more affordable housing, new construction is being built with restrictive covenants in mind. Restrictions which prevent people from being able to offset their cost of living by growing their own food, especially people who are already rent-stressed. And frankly we know that the cost of eggs has grown exponentially, so in an effort to minimize food insecurity while offering additional resources for maintaining stable housing, more must be done, such as allowing chickens to be permissible in all communities. I personally know of families who have had to give up their food producing pets, because of HOA restrictions. It's traumatizing and a shame.

I run a trucking company. My trucks use diesel fuel, which is necessary to do the work that keeps our state's infrastructure running. I understand how my activities at work generate a carbon footprint, so I look for ways to mitigate. One such way is by shopping local, raising food locally and facilitating that for thousands of others through my Oregon Ranch Farm Direct group. I recognize that by reducing my carbon footprint related to where my family's food comes from, I can help offset the impact of my trucking business. I do keep a garden and hens of my own, in my backyard. Being able to be a part of a robust community food system reduces the need for food to be hauled to Oregon on diesel trucks. If you can shop in your own backyard because you are not entirely restricted on growing or producing for yourself, then you reduce road miles making trips to the store. These little changes will help reduce emissions, one forkful at a time. And growing food, instead of doing landscaping that is sometimes required by HOA's, reduces water consumption for landscaping that is strictly ornamental. I urge you to check out the

article I have included.

If LA can support this idea of microfarms, while addressing food insecurity, then I know Oregon can too.

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-05-13/asante-microfarms-jamiah-hargins-south-la-fresh-food-produce>

I appreciate that people want to live in communities with aesthetic values like how many cars you can have parked on the street, or that you're not painting your house in pink zebra stripes, but food security isn't an aesthetic, it's a necessity. And the ability to produce food for oneself cannot be restricted to only those with the means to live in on a property that is unrestricted.

As a city councilor, I welcome debates about what can and can't be done on property to ensure that those conversations happen in a public fashion, not through a private contract that binds the hands of future owners and tenants. Many cities in Oregon allow chickens for example and already disallow roosters as a matter of nuisance. And they already don't allow livestock for meat production but do for things like milk for cheese production. And there are already things like "lot square footage" requirements per animal kept, and restrictions on proximity to neighbors outlined in our local ordinances. If they need to be revisited, each city or county can do that. Currently The City of Sweet Home has such ordinances and I am proud to say that we also recently updated our ordinances to included additional beehives for honey production & pollination.

If the legislature wants to address impacts of reducing road miles & fossil fuel consumption, while also addressing hunger issues & stable housing, this simple little bill, SB 437, which breaks free from restrictive covenants on the right to subsist goes a long way towards addressing it all. It won't cost the state a dime.

Thank you.