



February 15, 2023

Rep. Maxine Dexter, Chair, and Members  
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness  
State Capitol  
Salem, OR

**Re: Testimony in support of HB 2889 – Oregon Housing Needs Analysis**

Dear Chair Dexter and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive testimony for HB 2889. Central Oregon LandWatch (“LandWatch”) is a conservation organization that, for more than 35 years, has been working to create well-planned cities and protect wild, open spaces across the region.

Housing options for all are the cornerstones of safe, stable, equitable, and thriving communities. Oregon, like the rest of the nation, is in a housing crisis. But we can help deliver abundant, affordable housing options to Oregon’s communities by working together this legislative session to implement effective, consensus-based policies, like those outlined in HB 2889.

HB 2889 is a consensus-based retooling of Goal 10 and the way the state and cities plan for and ensure housing production. It includes many of the key policies outlined in the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis (OHNA) report to the 2023 Legislature – policies that have broad stakeholder support and consensus because they will have the most significant impact on meeting Oregon’s housing needs. When coupled with significant and sustained state funding for affordable housing production and infrastructure, the changes to Goal 10 outlined in HB 2889 will help ensure every Oregonian has the opportunity for an affordable housing choice in every community.

HB 2889 still needs some technical fixes and clarifications to ensure OHNA and the HPS are fully implemented, including sections pertaining to land swaps and urban/rural reserves. Additional work is also needed to outline clear and reasonable accountability measures for both the state and local governments, so housing is actually produced.

By focusing on effective, consensus policies like those in HB 2889 and providing state funding for housing-related infrastructure, we can significantly increase the housing quantity, choice, and affordability that families need, in every Oregon community.

Sincerely,

Corie Harlan  
Cities & Towns Program Manager

