

Submitter: Ellie Gluhosky

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB2889

Dear Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ellie, and I live in Portland. Many people in Oregon struggle to find a home they can afford in a thriving neighborhood, like good-paying jobs, green spaces, and walkable neighborhoods.

The Affordable, Abundant Housing bill will increase the number of affordable homes built in our state and make sure they are built in a way that will most benefit frontline communities, including people of color, low-income families, and people with disabilities.

Addressing the housing crisis today and for the long term, I support the passage of HB 2889 with the -1 amendments, which reference the environmental justice mapping tool, climate resilience, and equitable housing. I do so because I believe every Oregonian, regardless of status, wealth, or race deserves a healthy, affordable, and resilient home, in a location of their choice.

When future homes are built, they must resist, recover, and adapt to adverse conditions related to climate change and natural disasters, while also taking into account the existing environmental concerns of neighborhoods who have been, for example, impacted by air pollution.

This is important to me because as a low-income queer person, locating and securing affordable housing has consistently been a struggle for me in this town. I've watched friends lose their housing because of increased rent and a lack of affordable alternatives. Affordable NEEDS to be prioritized and incentivized, it is how we make our state equitable and safe for all.

Supporting the -1 amendment ensures Oregon has the tools it needs to hold all parties accountable for their role in not only producing enough housing for everyone but producing housing that is fair, just, and equitable. This is a landmark housing bill because it has the potential to make communities in every corner of Oregon more resilient, and for that I would be even more proud to call myself an Oregonian. I urge you to pass it this session.

Sincerely,
Ellie Gluhosky