



March 7, 2023

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS
Oregon State Capitol 900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: House Bill 3174 – Testimony in Support

Chair Dexter and Committee Members:

Thank you the opportunity to comment on HB 3174. Since 2004 Housing Land Advocates (HLA) has worked to ensure that Oregonians of all income levels can obtain adequate and affordable housing. We are proponents of land use policies and planning choices that advance affordable, fair, and equitable housing outcomes, which is why we endorse HB 3174.

HLA backs HB 3174 because it provides a framework for coordinating the development of needed housing on a regional scale—among local governments, state agencies, and other interested parties. In particular, we support the bill’s directive that regional housing coordinators shall work with “representatives of historically underrepresented groups to overcome community-specific barriers to obtaining housing.” Combatting Oregon’s housing crisis will benefit from a cooperative and informed approach that takes into account a diversity of interests and lived experiences.

Moreover, grants allocated under Section 1 of HB 3174 will provide local governments with an additional source of much-needed funding, enabling them to move forward with the planning and development of needed housing effectively and efficiently. Further, it will provide a means of evaluating the efficiency of state expenditures through a reporting system to legislative representatives on activities funded by the grants.

Thank you, Chair Dexter and Representative Marsh, for your leadership and for considering this testimony.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jennifer Bragar

Jennifer Bragar
President

cc: (all by e-mail)
Board