



**House Committee on Housing  
Letter of Opposition SB 850**

March 7, 2023

Chair Taylor, Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Home Builders Association is writing to oppose SB 850 in its current form.

The Oregon Home Builders Association (OHBA) represents nearly 3,000 members engaged in the residential construction industry and dedicated to affordable homeownership opportunities for all.

As this Committee knows, Oregon is in a housing supply crisis. There is a high demand for housing across the income spectrum and a limited supply of homes on the market. This dynamic drives up the cost of housing for more Oregonians and increases their cost burden. Developing affordable housing is a math problem, not a will problem. If the cost of construction exceeds what consumers can afford, it's impossible to bring an affordable product to market. Builders need assistance offsetting development costs and removing arbitrarily expensive regulations that prevent them from building. We must pull all levers available to bring down the cost of housing for consumers and get creative to offset construction and development costs.

To meet the Governor's goal of 36,000 units per year for the next ten years, there will be private/public partnerships. SB 850 would have significant impacts on affordability and workforce for needed housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

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