

Submitter: Henry Honorof

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB847

Chair Jama, members of the committee,

My name is Henry Honorof. I live in northeast Portland with my partner & one-year-old daughter, and I write today in strong support of Senate Bill 847.

Like much of the country, Oregon is in a desperate, crisis-level housing shortage that has painful human consequences up and down the income ladder. Our shortage is so deep that we need to do absolutely everything we can to rapidly create more homes – and more types of homes – for the vibrant spectrum of people in our state.

One of Senate Bill 847's greatest strengths is that it recognizes the diverse living needs of Oregonians. The old one-size-fits-all, "everybody should live in a single-detached house" idea never worked and is flagrantly out of step with the times now. By enacting regulatory reforms that help make an abundant diversity of market-rate and below-market housing options available to Oregonians, Senate Bill 847 will help take Oregon from "one-size-fits-all" to "you can find a home that fits your needs."

If somebody wants or needs to live near their job, SB 847 allows all commercial zones to include mixed use developments with housing.

If somebody has limited means and needs safe, stable shelter, SB 847 re-legalizes the co-living arrangements that provided a backstop of decent housing for poor Americans until they were widely banned in the mid 20th century.

If somebody is aging or otherwise has needs for ongoing care, SB 847 expands access to residential care facilities, so people can live in communities with those they know and love.

And for the many Oregonians who aren't quite living hand-to-mouth but just want a more affordable place to live, SB 847 legalized point-access-blocks, which has been identified by many builders and advocates as a key cost-saving opportunity to bring down the cost of new apartments.

SB 847 is a great bill and I strongly urge you to pass it. Thank you very much for your consideration.