

Submitter: Patrick Iler

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1051

I would like to go on record as being in support of SB 1051 with the -2 amendments. Oregon is the fourth most underproduced state in the nation as a share of our existing housing stock, and as a result, our housing costs are among the highest in the country. Some experts have found that Oregon is the fourth least affordable place to live in the US.

We desperately need more housing to bring down the cost of living for Oregon families. Many are struggling to find affordable and attainable housing, and as a result, a substantial portion of our communities are cost burdened by their housing payments. SB 1051-2 provides small and large cities alike with a carefully crafted, impactful tool to ramp up housing production and ultimately lower the cost of living in Oregon.

Limited buildable lands drive up costs in the same way that limited housing inventory does. The beauty of SB 1051-2 is that it brings lands into development today that are already planned for development tomorrow. In the long run, this means that we don't actually lose more of the lands that make Oregon beautiful, while in the short run, we gain lands that make Oregon more livable.

SB 1051-2 is a modest, but important solution. It provides a voluntary tool for cities that utilizes the power of partnerships to achieve results. SB 1051-2 will help us produce needed housing for some of our most important workers, such as firefighters, nurses, teachers, small business owners, and public employees. We rely on these workers for so much. The least we can do in return is give them the opportunity to find housing that they can afford.

The Governor, the Legislature, and our state agencies have all agreed that addressing our housing crisis is a top priority, but without creative solutions like SB 1051-2, our state will be unable to address the crisis at the scale and speed that is needed to protect Oregon families and their budgets.

As you consider your position on the bill, I would ask you why would anyone oppose it? If we are honest with ourselves, we know there is a significant housing shortage in Oregon. It is clear this is in part because the same players who will oppose this bill have opposed other good bills that would have positively addressed the problem over the last two decades to date, and it could be argued they have been successful. Let seriously address the housing and homeless crisis and actually do something that will work.

Please support the -2 amendment to SB 1051.

Thank you.

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