



March 31, 2023

Representative Maxine Dexter  
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness  
900 Court St NE, H-283  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Support for HB 3503**

Dear Chair Dexter and Committee Members:

The League of Oregon Cities (LOC) writes in support for HB 3503, which lifts the state preemption on local rent regulations.

As the association representing Oregon's 241 incorporated cities across the state, the LOC advocates to preserve local decision-making and problem-solving authority. What works in one city may not work in another. While cities often experience similar overall challenges, the factors that drive those challenges are often unique and, as a result, solutions need to be tailored to address the unique aspects of each community.

The current state preemption prevents local governments from enacting rent control policies that are tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of their communities. Local governments are closer to their communities, more responsive, and are able to act more quickly. Cities of all sizes, rural, urban and suburban alike are experiencing rising rates of homelessness and housing instability. HB 3503 will provide local governments with a critical tool to address the affordable housing crisis for their residents. We urge your support.

Sincerely,

Ariel Nelson  
LOC Lobbyist