



February 24, 2023

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

Re: House Bill 2001 – February 28, 2023, Public Hearing

Chair Dexter and Committee Members:

Thank you this opportunity to comment HB 2001. 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.

HLA would like to reiterate our support for HB 2001 and its incorporation of the provisions of HB 2889. We stand by our previous testimony commending the bill as a whole, which has brought together a number and diversity of interests in remarkable consensus and does well to address Oregon's housing crisis. In addition to the provisions we called out in that testimony, we would like to express our enthusiasm for Sections 46 through 49 of the -8 amendments to HB 2001, which provide funding to support factory-produced housing. Modular and other factory-produced housing are in short supply and are expeditious and cost-effective means towards increased production of housing stock.

We do have remaining concerns regarding the manner in which HB 2001 addresses issues of accessibility:

This legislation provides an unprecedented opportunity to expand the accessibility and visitability requirements for housing in Oregon, beyond the minimal requirements of the Federal Fair Housing Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (which is the construction standard required of all housing built with federal funds). The Executive and Legal Directors of Disability Rights Oregon over the past 20+ years have told us that they have been painfully aware that the need for truly accessible housing is far greater than what results from enforcing the Oregon Building Code. We would ask that DLCD be directed in this legislation to adopt a definition of accessibility through rulemaking, and to use the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as a model. Moreover, application of that standard should be expanded to apply to all housing and at numbers greater than the 5%/2% minimums set forth in Section 504. Further, DLCD should be directed in this legislation to collaborate with the Building Code Division at the Department of Consumer and Business Services to ensure that these new standards are fully implemented as soon as practicable—and are in place as the Housing Production process begins.

As we continue to follow the progress of this bill and consider comments submitted by our colleagues, we may find it necessary to submit additional comments. Thank you, Chair Dexter and Committee Members, for your leadership and for considering this testimony.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kathy Wilde

Kathy Wilde
HLA Board Member

cc: (all by e-mail)

Allan Lazo and Matthew Serres, Fair Housing Council of Oregon
Allen Hines, Community Vision
Housing Land Advocates Board