

Submitter: Helen Marston

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB1537

Lacking affordable housing has been a huge problem for Oregonians. Oregon's homebuilders are ready to build the housing their communities need, but we need serious changes to our planning and permitting system to make it happen, and the future of our state depends on it. I support SB 1537 because it is intended to eliminate many of the barriers builders face every day, including overly strict planning criteria, costly appeals of needed housing from those who do not want more housing, and a lack of buildable land supply that drives up the costs of building. Moreover, SB 1537 creates a new office to provide oversight to make sure that our housing laws are being followed at the local level. These are all important changes that will help Oregon overcome its housing crisis. For these reasons, I encourage you to support SB 1537 this session.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments today.