

February 13, 2023

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for SB 1530, -3 Amendment

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1530 on behalf of Central Oregon LandWatch (COLW). COLW is a conservation organization based in Bend that, for more than 35 years, has been working to create well-planned cities and protect farmland and wild, open spaces across the region.

Our Cities & Towns program exists to help deliver Complete Communities to Central Oregon - welcoming, mixed-use places with housing options for all, essential services, nature nearby, and convenient and safe ways to get around that don't always require a car. At the heart of this work is creating places that people can call home - and with Oregon's ongoing housing crisis, this is out of reach for far too many people.

That's why LandWatch has been working for a number of years to help craft policies and tools that will effectively and urgently deliver more affordable and middle housing to Central Oregon's communities. We've been prioritizing state infrastructure funding for this needed housing because it is one of *the* most impactful and important tools for addressing our housing crisis at the local level.

We strongly support SB 1530-3. Oregonians from every walk of life and communities large and small are all impacted by our housing crisis - and in many different ways. The multi-pronged approach in this bill will help meet a wide array of housing-related needs, from unhoused community members, to those struggling with unstable housing and high utility bills, to people seeking affordable and middle housing.

We know that one of the key barriers to delivering more of the housing Oregonians need is getting lands within our existing Urban Growth Boundaries shovel-ready for development. Section 1 sub (3) provides financial resources for land acquisition for affordable housing projects, and Section 2 sub (1) provides financial resources for infrastructure projects that support the development of housing.



LandWatch strongly supports both of these provisions. And we urge you to consider increasing the funding allocated to infrastructure projects. The housing-related infrastructure needs of Oregon's cities are immense. In Bend, the transportation infrastructure needed to serve the housing and related development within our 2016 expansion areas is over \$101M¹. Prioritizing resources to address this issue is one of the most impactful actions our elected leaders can take to significantly increase housing production.

Further, we urge legislators to **ensure geographic equity in distributing these infrastructure funds and to prioritize and target investments within existing UGBs** to deliver more housing, more quickly.

SB 1530 will help Central Oregon tackle our housing crisis in a number of interrelated and critical ways. We urge you to pass this bill. Thank you for your service and consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,



Corie Harlan
Cities & Towns Program Director

¹ [2020 Bend Transportation System Plan, page 121](#)

