

OREGON BUSINESS COUNCIL HOUSING COMMITTEE SUPPORT FOR SB 1537

The Oregon Business Council's (OBC) Housing Committee considers unaffordable housing as one of the greatest threats to the state's economic outlook. The high cost of housing is contributing to workforce shortages in underbuilt communities across the state and is a key driver of the state's slowing population growth.

In recent sessions, the Legislature has enacted nation-leading reforms to accelerate production and meet the Governor's goal of building 36,000 units per year. Senate Bill 1537 is the next logical step in that journey. We support each of the bill's key elements and are especially encouraged by the streamlined development processes envisioned through the Housing Accountability and Production Office.

We agree with the need for the bill's investment package but are neutral on the specific amount. OBC's Housing Committee sees resource needs in several policy areas and thanks legislators in advance for balancing those competing requests.