



community alliance of tenants

February 06, 2024

Senator Kayse Jama and Members of the Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Re: Senate Bill 1537- Addressing Oregon's Housing Supply Crisis

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

The Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT) strongly endorse Senate Bill 1537, a transformative proposal to tackle Oregon's acute housing supply and affordability crisis. CAT advocates for equitable housing practices and laws and seeks comprehensive solutions to increase housing production and stability for all Oregonians.

Years of insufficient construction have plunged Oregon into a significant housing deficit, escalating rental and property prices while intensifying the homelessness issue. The state needs over 580,000 new homes in the next 20 years. The repercussions of this crisis are widespread, affecting people from various walks of life.

The affordability crisis in Oregon is forcing residents to move away from their jobs or out of state, exacerbating a talent shortage for employers. Addressing this issue requires a significant boost in housing production, with Senate Bill 1537 marking a vital step towards increasing housing supply by up to 80% to meet future demands.

The bill advocates for eco-friendly development by reforming land use laws to increase housing availability and creating a Housing Production and Accountability Office for development oversight. SB 1537 also commits to environmental sustainability by funding energy-efficient housing, benefiting low-income residents, and balancing Oregon's housing needs with ecological preservation.

CAT is particularly encouraged by the emphasis on affordable housing within SB 1537. The requirements for affordable housing within expansion areas and the focus on diverse housing choices align with our core mission of advocating for housing justice and ensuring that all Oregonians, regardless of income level, have access to safe, affordable, and stable housing.

In conclusion, CAT wholeheartedly supports SB 1537 and urges its passage. This legislation represents a critical step in our collective efforts to address Oregon's housing supply and affordability crisis. We stand ready to collaborate with lawmakers, stakeholders, and communities to ensure the successful implementation of this essential bill.

Thanks for your attention and support of SB 1537.

Sincerely,

The Community Alliance of Tenants.

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