



Senate Committee on Housing & Development
Testimony in Support of SB 1537
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AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan social change organization with more than 500,000 members in Oregon. We work to improve the quality of life for all as we age, strengthen communities, and fight for the issues that matter to Oregon families.

AARP Oregon supports SB 1537 as a critical step to expand housing options in Oregon communities.

An important aspect of our work in Oregon is advocating for livable and age-friendly communities, including expanding housing options and ensuring access to affordable, safe, secure, and accessible homes for Oregonians of all ages and abilities.

According to the Census by 2030, 1 in 5 people in the United States will be age 65+. However, as the oldest state in the west, in over 30% of Oregon county 1 in 4 residents are over the age of 65. A high percentage of older Oregonians, both renters and homeowners, are housing cost burdened and this burden increases with age. In addition, those who want to downsize are not able to find housing options that meet their changing needs in their neighborhood of choice.

The home is central to individual and community well-being and should support our lives both today and into the future. Our communities lack the affordable, accessible, and varied housing options that meet people's preference to live in amenity-rich neighborhoods.

We need continued bold action to address the housing needs in our communities. Investing in local housing production, especially affordable and resilient homes, is critical and that is why AARP Oregon supports SB 1537.

SB 1537 also has the important opportunity to affirm our collective aspiration for livable communities by prioritizing housing production in places that people want to live – places with ample multi-modal transportation options, places that provide opportunity and easy access to work and play.