

**Testimony In Support of HB 2138
Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce
House Committee On Housing and Homelessness**



Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and members of the Committee,

My name is Tiffany Edwards, and I am here on behalf of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, an organization deeply committed to addressing Oregon's housing crisis through practical, community-driven solutions.

Our Chamber has long been a champion for middle housing, working closely with the City of Eugene and local partners like Better Housing Together to support policies that expand housing choices and increase affordability. We strongly support HB 2138 because it takes meaningful steps to remove barriers and allow for the housing options our community desperately needs.

HB 2138 builds on Oregon's prior middle housing legislation by unlocking thousands of new homes—duplexes, triplexes, cottage clusters, and townhouses—across the state. It ensures that housing development is not hindered by unnecessary regulatory obstacles and provides incentives for affordable and accessible homeownership. Employers across Oregon are struggling to attract and retain workers because of the severe shortage of affordable housing. When employees cannot find housing near their jobs, businesses suffer, workforce shortages persist, and economic growth is stifled. By expanding housing options, this bill will create opportunities for workers and their families to live closer to job centers, schools, and services. Additionally, increasing housing supply leads to job creation in the construction industry and related sectors, while also boosting local tax revenues that fund essential public services.

For communities like Eugene, where we face a severe housing shortage, this bill is critical. By streamlining land divisions, reducing excessive parking requirements, and invalidating outdated restrictions that block middle housing, HB 2138 will help ensure that families of all incomes can live closer to jobs, schools, and essential services.

Oregon's housing crisis requires urgent action, and this bill moves us in the right direction. On behalf of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, I urge you to pass HB 2138 to create more housing opportunities, strengthen our workforce, and build thriving, inclusive communities across Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tiffany Edwards
Vice President, Policy & Community Development
Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce